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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you take part in last weekend's 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer?

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INSIDE



'Big One'

The "Big One," as earthquake scientists imagine it in a detailed, first-of-its-kind script, unzips California's mighty San Andreas Fault north of the Mexican border.

NATION...Page 24



Dino Tracks

Scientists say they have found dinosaur tracks on the Arabian Peninsula.

WORLD...Page 26



Hotdog Champ

Steven Harmsen emerged last Saturday as the 2008 Taste of the Marianas hot dog eating champion.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 30

'Homeland Security is prepared to get the job done' **PAGE 3**

Water interruption set due to Kannat Tabla project. **PAGE 5**

Minimum wage hike takes effect Monday

Effective May 26, 2008, the minimum wage of \$3.55 will increase by 50 cents, bringing the new minimum wage to \$4.05 an hour and time and one-half or \$6.08 for every hour over 40.

The minimum wage increase will automatically apply to all covered, non-exempt workers. There will be no need to file a written amendment to the contracts to reflect this increase.

The wage increase will apply to most house workers, farmers and subsistence farmers.

1) House workers and farmers who do not live with employer must also be paid time and one-half (\$6.08) for every hour worked over 40 hours.

2) Live-in house workers and farmers will be exempt from overtime requirements. That

See MINIMUM on Page 4

Lizama steps down from the bench

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama will step down from the bench effective tomorrow, Saturday.



Lizama

Lizama, who is said to be planning to run as CNMI's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, submitted his

See LIZAMA on Page 4

Too many clients delay Call-A-Ride pickup

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

For several months now, the Call-A-Ride program has been picking up clients later than the expected 15-minute pickup time.

Tony Chong, director of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, said that a number of people who avail

See TOO on Page 4

EPA bans open detonation of some munitions

The Environment Protection Agency Region 9 has agreed to prohibit open detonation of chemical, radiological, and biological munitions that might be found on Saipan, the largest island and capital of the Northern Mariana Islands. The

See EPA on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FISH STORY

Seahorse Marine Sports' captain Steve Igisaier and Lucian George, tourist from Yokohama Seven Co., Ltd. Atsushi Nakagawa (president), Kenji Ota, Takao Sakai, Yoshitaka Nakagawa, Akihiro Makino, Tomonori Sasaki and friends gather around the 6-foot, 500-lb marlin that Igisaier and George caught about 3 to 4 miles from Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan during a trolling trip Wednesday. The fish fought to the bitter end for four hours, starting at 7:35am. **See related story on Page 16.**

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Local

CNMI takes lead against human trafficking

CNMI Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory has expressed appreciation that the efforts of the CNMI and federal governments have garnered nationwide recognition for their proactive successes. Because of these achievements, the CNMI was selected by Shared Hope International as one of 10 locations in the United States to undergo a domestic human trafficking study of under-age victims funded by the U.S. Department of Justice.

What distinguishes the Commonwealth from many other locations across the region and the globe is that the local law enforcement and social service community have recognized the potential for human trafficking here, and have actively organized their resources to combat it. The CNMI is one of only 10 American communities to form a Human Trafficking Task Force, and has gained recognition for its achievements in recognizing potential problems and

organizing against them.

"The CNMI was chosen as a site to review by Shared Hope International not because of an inordinate number of cases in our jurisdiction, but because of the progressive approach the CNMI has taken to identify trafficking, combat its occurrence, and investigate and prosecute wrongdoers," said Gregory in a statement. "Plans are currently underway by the Task Force to increase public awareness to inform the public and motivate re-

porting of abuses as they occur."

The Justice Department recently praised the CNMI and the local U.S. Attorney for their proactive stance against human trafficking. During a meeting of the Task Force held on April 2, 2007, Marie Martinez of the DoJ Office of Victims of Crime applauded the CNMI for

being proactive, while other jurisdictions were less willing to prosecute cases. For instance, Hawaii and New York were reporting zero instances of human trafficking, despite its prevalence there.

The Shared Hope International project focuses not on the general picture of human trafficking, but on domestic minor sex trafficking victims, including citizens, legal permanent

residents, and Freely Associated State citizens under 18 years old, to improve access to and delivery of services.

The goal of the Shared Hope International study is to determine whether further resources are needed for federal and CNMI law enforcement. The Attorney General is hopeful that the study will result in greater federal support in combating this problem. (AGO)

Repair work on Engine No. 3

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that due to mechanical problems on Engine No. 3 at Power Plant 1, the power plants are not able to adequately meet the island's power demand.

Therefore, the load shedding schedule for May 20 and

21, 2008 was implemented at 10:30am yesterday and will continue until the emergency repairs are completed. However, as a result of the generation loss, the outages have been expanded to include other areas of the electrical grid

as the emergency repairs are being performed.

The repairs are expected to be completed this afternoon.

CUC apologizes for any inconvenience and will continue to work diligently to resolve the problem. (CUC)

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Bill seeks to reinstate CUC board of directors

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Legislation has been introduced to bring the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in the hands of a board of directors.

Rep. Victor Hocog, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, is proposing to cancel Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's 2006 executive order.

The order authorized the governor to pick the executive director for CUC, and created a CUC advisory board, for which no

appointees have been named.

Hocog's bill seeks to reinstate CUC's five-member board of directors. The board would have the power to appoint the CUC executive director and dictate policy at the utility.

Hocog in his bill said a board of directors would bring stability and consistency to CUC, especially at this time of power crisis. He also said the present management structure at CUC "creates an unpredictable and unstable situation whereby the governor can effortlessly replace the executive director or any employee notwithstand-

ing the corporation's circumstances."

The PUTC chairman also said the Commonwealth would be served best by having a board of directors, rather than a single executive director, calling the shots at CUC.

But the Fitial administration disagrees. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that a board of directors would complicate matters at CUC.

"It's going to be messy," said Reyes. "CUC is still in a state of crisis. We want to insulate it from political tinkering and mi-

cromanagement."

He added that the administration has confidence in CUC's new executive director, Antonio Muna, who had served as the governor's special assistant for management and budget during the first half of Fitial's term.

Earlier this month, Muna took over from former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero, who had resigned from the post.

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Benedetto: Homeland Security is prepared to get the job done

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Based on his recent meetings with various federal agencies in Washington D.C., Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto said he is convinced that the Department of Homeland Security is prepared to get the job done with respect to extending federal control of NMI's immigration.

In an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, Benedetto said the

people that he met with at the Department of Homeland Security are very motivated and sensitive to the vulnerability of the CNMI's economy.

"They seem to have a good sense of what they need to accomplish in the next 12 months," said the official, who is currently in D.C.

He said he is in Washington D.C. for meetings with various federal agencies on their plans to implement Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural

Resources Act of 2008—the law that extends the Immigration and Nationality Act to the islands.

Benedetto said he went to D.C. to offer the Office of Insular Affairs' assistance to other agencies in meeting their challenges in the year to come.



Benedetto

He said he conveyed the message from several members of the NMI Legislature that the people of the Commonwealth are eager to assist them in the drafting of regulations and to have maximum input in the discussions about

how to implement the new law.

The Department of Homeland Security personnel were very supportive of the idea, the ombudsman said.

Included in their discussions was the need for NMI employ-

ers to have access to alien workers in segments of the economy that continue to utilize alien workers to supplement the resident workforce.

Benedetto said also discussed how critical it is for the CNMI to have the ability to hang on to the Chinese and Russian tourist markets.

He said there was a discussion on the surveying of current Division of Immigration employees who may wish to be recruited for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Benedetto said he had the privilege early this week of briefing Gov. Benigno Fitial and OIA Director Nikolao Pula about the meetings with Homeland Security.

"They were very interested in the progress that has been made thus far," he said.

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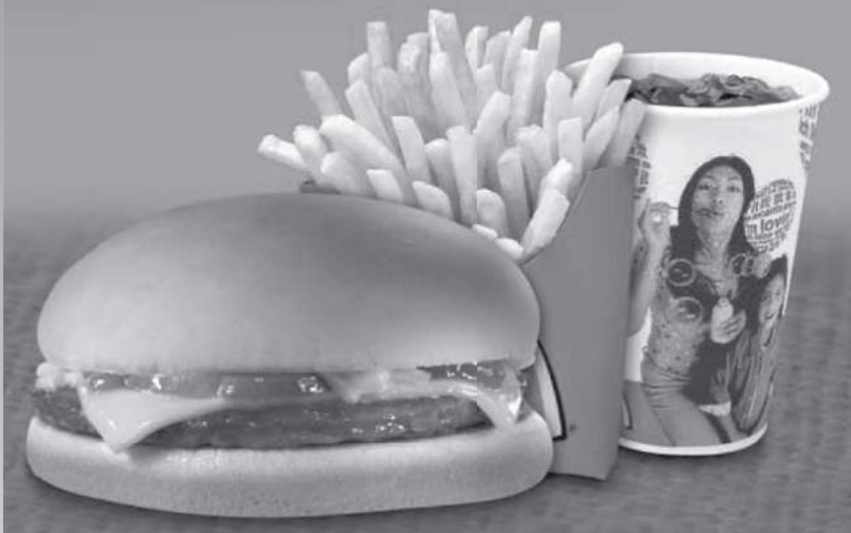
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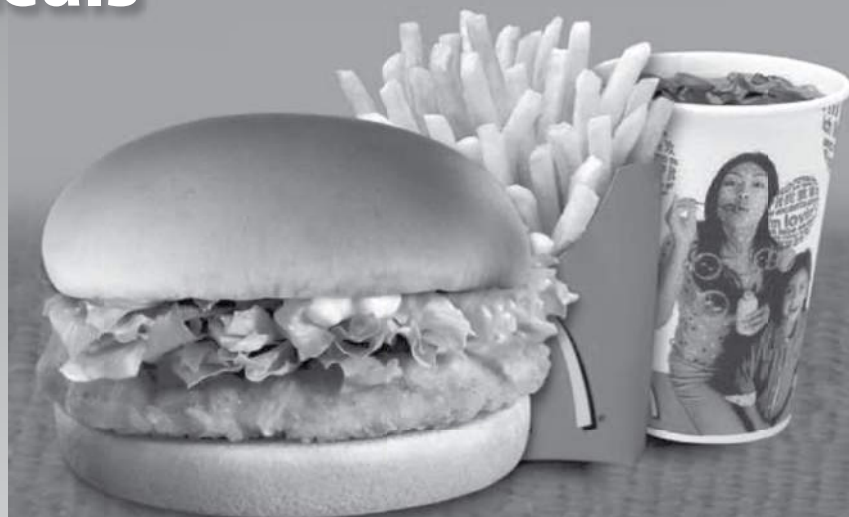
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Jurors spare Sablan from execution

By MIKE MCPHEE
THE DENVER POST

Federal inmate Rudy Sablan avoided the death penalty Tuesday in federal court and will now serve a second life sentence for the killing and mutilation of a fellow inmate nine years ago.

The same jury that convicted him last month of premeditated first-degree murder for the death and mutilation of Joey Estrella on Oct. 10, 1999, voted five in favor of executing him and seven opposed.

U.S. District Judge Wiley Daniel will pronounce a man-

datory life sentence for the 38-year-old native of the Northern Mariana Islands on June 18.

"I felt very optimistic, and now I'm very happy," said Lino Sablan Tenorio, 45, Rudy's first cousin and the director of prisons for the Mariana Islands. "His mother (who refused to speak to the media) is very gratified and grateful to the attorneys who represented him."

Rudy Sablan's son, Irvin Saralu, 14, was noticeably relieved when the verdict was read. He, too, did not want to speak to the media.

"We prayed a lot for Rudy,

even visited the Mother Cabrini Shrine over the weekend," said Tenorio, whose family is Roman Catholic. "We don't believe in an eye for an eye. The family plans to contact the victim's (Estrella's) family, show them our remorse and try to make amends."

Tenorio, who spent 20 years as a police officer, saw his partner shot to death. The culprit was convicted and sent to prison. Years later, Tenorio and his partner's father forgave the shooter and spoke in favor of him being released on parole.

Rudy Sablan's lawyers, Forrest Lewis and Donald Knight, refused

to comment, as did the prosecutors, assistant U.S. attorneys Brenda Taylor and Phil Brimmer.

Sablan's cousin, William Sablan, was convicted of the same murder last year and also avoided the death penalty when one juror held out.

The Sablans, who shared an isolation holding cell in the maximum-security U.S. Penitentiary in Florence, were convicted of killing Estrella, a third cellmate. The two then eviscerated Estrella and used one of his organs to smear the window of the cell door, according to evidence in the trial.

10 students vie in today's AG's Cup competition

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Ten students representing different high schools in the CNMI will be competing this morning in the 25th Annual Attorney General's Cup, all of them females.

The only boy, Grace Christian Academy's Andrew Orsini, would have made this year's 11th contestant but he and his family have flown off-island to support his younger brother, Vinni Orsini, at the National Geography Bowl in Washington D.C.

Today's contestants are Kelsey Reyes from Calvary Christian Academy, April C. Cabanes of Eucon International School, Mercilyn Kaneshi of Kagman High School, Micaela Tenorio Demapan of Marianas Baptist Academy, Adeleyah Mojica of Marianas High School, Ruby Ann R. Venus of Mount Carmel School, Aesha dB. Sablan of Northern Marianas Academy, Dheena Elayda of Rota High School, Richille Vela Denora of Saipan Southern High School, and Genevieve L. Santos of Tinian High School.

Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory is hosting this year's Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition.

According to a release from the CNMI Attorney General's Office, this year's competition theme is "Should the NMI and Guam Unite as One Marianas to form the 51st state of the Union?" Each of the 10 contestants will stand before a panel of judges and attempt to convince the judges that the position she takes is the most compelling argument.

Last year's winner was Cyd Xyrene Tribiana from MCS after he delivered an emotional speech on whether the CNMI should renegotiate its Covenant with the U.S.

MINIMUM

From Page 1

means for hours worked in excess of 40 in a workweek, they need only be paid \$4.05 per hour. Live-in house-workers and farmers still must be paid for every hour worked.

3) Employers of live-in house-workers and farmers may deduct a reasonable amount for room and board of up to \$100 for housing and \$100 for food per month.

Employees not covered by the minimum wage provision of the FLSA

Some employees in the CNMI will not be covered by the minimum wage provisions of the FLSA and may continue to be paid at the rate set by the CNMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act. Employees will not be covered if:

1) Their employer is small (doing annual gross volume of sales or business done of less than \$500,000) AND

2) The individual employee does not engage in commerce in the course of his or her work

(that means, he or she does not make phone calls to the mainland, do janitorial work in buildings where goods are produced for shipment out of the CNMI, handle records of interstate transactions, swipe credit cards, do business over the Internet).

For employers who believe they are not covered because their enterprise does not do at least \$500,000 in gross sales, Labor Processing Section or Division of Employment Services will be requiring copies of the BGRs for the previous year for the enterprise and an affidavit that the individual employee does not engage in commerce.

Employees exempt from the minimum wage provisions of the FLSA

Certain categories of employees are exempt from the minimum wage provisions of the FLSA. Below we highlight the exemptions that we have received inquiries about.

1) Employees engaged in fishing (fishermen). These employees are exempt from the minimum wage provisions of the FLSA and may continue to be paid the wage rate set by

the CNMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act.

2) Farmers on small farms that grow produce or raise livestock for sale. A farmer will be exempt from the minimum wage provisions of the FLSA and may continue to be paid the wage rate set by the CNMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act if the farmer:

a. Works for an employer who grows produce or raises live stocks for sale; AND

b. The employer employs fewer than six farmers in every quarter of the previous year.

For employers claiming these exemptions, Labor Processing Section and the Division of Employment Services will be requiring an affidavit verifying that the above requirements are met, and a copy of a business license and BGRs.

3) Domestic workers who provide companionship services to disabled individuals. A house worker will qualify for this exemption only if his or her primary job is to provide companionship services for an individual who is unable to care for his or herself because he or she is elderly or disabled. To qualify for this

exemption, at least 80% of the employee's time must be spent caring for the disabled or elderly individual. For employers claiming this exemption, Labor Processing Section and Division of Employment Services will be requiring an affidavit verifying that the individual is disabled, and that the house worker will be spending at least 80% of her time caring for that individual. In some cases may also require a certification from a doctor.

Department of Labor disclaimer: This press release is designed to provide employers and employees with an overview of the FLSA and how it interplays with the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007. Ultimately, the responsibility to comply with this and all labor laws falls on the employer and employee. Employers and employees may seek additional information about the FLSA on the U.S. Department of Labor website at www.dol.gov or contact the U.S. DOL Office at 233-0740, or Ms. Alice Concepcion at the Division of Employment Services of the CNMI Department of Labor at 236-0900.

LIZAMA

From Page 1

letter of resignation to Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja on Wednesday.

"I think it's wise at this time to step down and allow the next generation of lawyers the chance to gain the benefits and experience from this position," said the judge in his resignation letter, a copy of which was obtained by Saipan Tribune yesterday.

Lizama said he has greatly enjoyed and appreciated "the myriad aspects" of the judge's

position and that he will surely draw on these experiences for the rest of his life.

"Now that there has been word of my intent to retire publicized to the community, I think it is prudent to step down sooner than later," said the judge, referring to Saipan Tribune's article last week about his plan to retire on July 17 to pursue his dream to be the CNMI's first delegate.

In that article Lizama only stated that "it is very, very likely" when asked if he is retiring.

In the same article, the judge neither confirmed nor denied if he intends to run as a delegate.

"It's better to be on the side of caution until the time comes," said the judge in that story.

In his letter of resignation, Lizama said that tomorrow, May 24, will be a mere 40 days short of his 10th year on the bench.

"Therefore I declare my retirement from the bench effective May 24, 2008," Lizama said.

A source earlier said that Lizama is willing to challenge Washington resident representative Pete A. Tenorio, a possible candidate for the delegate position, and other hopefuls.

But the source said Lizama will not run "for good reason"

if former attorney general and now private lawyer Robert Torres files his candidacy for the delegate post.

In 2003, then presiding judge Edward Manibusan and associate judge Lizama were up for retention. Manibusan opted to retire. Lizama became the first judge in the CNMI to be retained. Thus, his term on the bench was extended until 2010.

The landmark election for the first NMI delegate to the U.S. House will be held in the Commonwealth on Nov. 4, 2008. This will coincide with the general election in the U.S.

ERRATUM

The voice for the article "What does science tell us about our Northern Islands coral reef ecosystems?" that was published in yesterday's edition, May 22, 2008, was provided by Peter Houk for the CoCo series. The editor's note referencing this was inadvertently cut off at the end. Our apologies.

EPA

From Page 1

prohibition is the direct result of intervention by concerned community members.

The designated detonation area is located on Marpi Point, a public lands property on Saipan that overlooks the Pacific Ocean. The CNMI plans to clear nearby tropical rain forest lands and grant them to over 500 indigenous individuals and families for new homesteads.

The final hazardous waste permit will still allow the CNMI Department of Public Safety to collect and detonate millions of pounds of WWII munitions that threaten the environment and the safety of its residents.

The CNMI is a chain of 15 tropical islands in the western Pacific Ocean. Majority of unexploded and abandoned ordnance, including artillery shells, grenades and bullets are found on virtually all of the islands of the CNMI. They are attributed to the United States and Japanese battle for Saipan and the U.S. build-up for the attacks on

the Japanese mainland.

The permit for Saipan is expected to serve as a model for other islands including Tinian and Rota.

Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger submitted detailed written comments with support from local residents of Saipan which resulted in permit conditions that will categorically prohibit open burning or detonation of munitions wastes containing chemical warfare agent, biological warfare material, radiological hazardous wastes, and chemical agent contaminated media.

The U.S. EPA did not agree to ban open burning and detonation of smoke-filled and incendiary munitions. CSWAB argued that detonation of munitions containing systemic poisons such as white phosphorus (used for signaling, screening, and incendiary purposes) disperses minute phosphorus particles over a large area. White phosphorus is highly toxic to waterfowl and may be magnified up the food chain. Contamination in various fish tissues has been shown to be toxic or lethal if ingested.

TOO

From Page 1

of the Saipan Call-A-Ride Program should not be doing so, causing those who really need the program to be late for work or school.

"We see that there are a lot of people who are very mobile but they take advantage of the program. This is a big concern for us," Chong said.

Lydia Igitol, executive director for the CNMI Center for Living Independently, said some members of the organization have complained that they are often late for work.

"I had even heard some of them say that they were not able to go to work the past two days because there is no transportation," Igitol said.

The Saipan Call-A-Ride is a program that provides transpor-

tation services to people living with disabilities who need to go to work and school and who are not mobile.

However, Chong said that Call-A-Ride has been accepting a number of people who are "fully capable" of getting from Point A to Point B on their own without the Call-A-Ride program.

Chong said the Call-A-Ride Program continues to accept them because the program itself

never had a comprehensive set of eligibility guidelines since it began six years ago.

He said just about a month and a half ago during a board meeting, the Board of Developmental Disabilities had adopted a new set of eligibility guidelines for the program.

The new guidelines, which will be implemented toward the end of this year, are public transportation guidelines of the American with Disabilities Act.

Chong said a public hearing will be conducted sometime in July to educate the community on the new guidelines and to pass out a new and revised application for the Call-A-Ride Program.

"There's a lot of people who are in the program who are not supposed to be in the program. Once we weed those people out, we should not have any more problems," Chong said.

The program currently has

one accessible van and one minivan providing transportation for up to 700 people with disabilities.

Chong said the Public School System is donating two vans to the Call-A-Ride Program and those should be received in six months or so.

He added that even with the two vans the program is operating on, there should not be a problem if the program cuts those who are not eligible.

Water interruption set due to Kannat Tabla project

Residents of Kannat Tabla, Finasisu, As Terlaje, Chalan Kiya, and Chalan Laulau areas will have interrupted water supply tomorrow, May 24, due to the final pipeline connection of the Kannat Tabla reservoir from the Isley Booster I pump station.

The project will be from 8am to 5pm, during which water ser-

vices to these areas mentioned will be affected. Normal water hours will resume on Sunday.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., through its contractor, AIC Marianas, is scheduled to make the necessary pipe connection from the pumping station to allow water flow into the new Kannat Tabla reservoir and

bring the system a step closer to its completion.

The EPA funded over \$3,000,000 for the Kannat Tabla reservoir and waterline project and its main goal is to pressur-

ize the water system, improve water quantity and quality to the Kannat Tabla, Finasisu, Chalan Kiya and Chalan Laulau areas.

CUC offers the following tentative water schedule on May 24

(See table).

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water especially during this period.

Rainwater catchment systems/water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from any tanks. (CUC)

AREAS AFFECTED	TENTATIVE WATER HOURS
Kannat Tabla	4am to 7:30am
Finasisu	5am to 7:30am
As Terlaje, NMC area	5am to 7:30am
Chalan Kiya	No Water
Chalan Laulau	5pm to 9pm


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Pete A. lowers his budget request to \$360K

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has submitted a reduced budget request to reflect his shortened term of office.

Tenorio is now asking for a little over \$360,000 for his Washington and CNMI offices from Oct. 1, 2008 through Jan. 2, 2009. This is 40 percent of his original budget request for fiscal year 2009, which will run from October 2008 to September 2009.

Tenorio was elected to serve as the CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. until January 2010. But the recently

signed bill, which grants the Northern Marianas a delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives, cut his term short by one year. The new delegate, to be elected in November 2008, will take office on Jan. 3, 2009.

About \$250,000, or two thirds, of Tenorio's budget proposal is for personnel expenses. These include \$145,000 for staff salaries, \$55,000 for lump sum payment of annual leave, \$27,000 for subsistence, and other costs.

He is also requesting \$35,000 for the repatriation of Washington-based employees who were hired in the commonwealth. The amount includes the travel

costs for the employees, their dependents, and excess baggage as provided in the employment contracts.

In addition to the \$360,000 request, Tenorio has asked the governor and the legislators to allocate funding for roof repair work for the D.C. office, also called the Marianas House. He said minimal repair work was done recently to stop the leakage into the copier room and the first floor entrance area. He added that more extensive work must be done to maintain the real estate value of the government asset.

The Commonwealth expects to save \$1 million a year from

having a delegate to the U.S. Congress. This is equivalent to the annual budget of the resident representative's office.

The federal government will pay for the expenses of the Northern Marianas delegate, including the delegate's salary which is currently at \$169,300 a year.

Under the delegate act, Northern Marianas will have a

representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years.

The first election will take

place this November. To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

To date, Tenorio is the only one to have announced his can-

Memorial Week endorsed to honor fallen veterans

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has endorsed May 21-26 as Memorial Week to give the entire community a chance to pay their respect to those who

paid the ultimate price for the freedom of people of the Commonwealth.

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the service members who were killed in the line of duty. Their decision to bear arms, leaving family and friends behind as

See MEMORIAL on next page



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Land claimant gets long-awaited \$340K compensation

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A land compensation claimant got \$340,000 from two appropriation bills that have recently been signed into law.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has approved two local measures, which grant \$250,000 and \$90,200 respectively in land

compensation to Jose Ch. Camacho. The amount represents a little over half of the amount due to Camacho, who won a lawsuit against the Department of Public Works in 2005.

The first \$250,000 appropriation was taken from funds originally set aside for the Kannat Tabla drainage project. The other \$90,200 was from two

separate projects of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.: a new steel tank and a sand filtration system at the Saipan International Airport.

A small group of lawmakers has called both measures "special interest earmarks." Precinct V representatives, in particular, protest the re-appropriation of the Kannat Tabla funds to com-

pensate a single land compensation claimant.

But proponents say that Camacho is ill and has an urgent need for the money, which the court awarded him in 2005.

The Superior Court has ordered the CNMI government to pay Camacho for the 737-square meter property taken from him in 1990. The compen-

sation was pegged at the 1992 valuation rate of \$90 per square meter, plus \$299,000 in severance damage. The court also ordered the government to pay 3-percent annual interest from 1990 to 2005, and 9 percent post-judgment interest.

Hundreds of landowners are waiting for compensation from the government.

In 2003, the CNMI government floated a \$40-million

bond to settle private land acquisitions. Only \$28 million of this amount was actually used for land compensation payments, with some claimants receiving millions of dollars apiece.

Land compensation cases involve private properties acquired for public purposes, such as road construction, utility easements, wetlands, and other public infrastructure.

Proposal to make CHC autonomous gets support

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is backing a proposal to turn the government-run Commonwealth Health Center into an autonomous institution.

Tudela, in comments submitted to the House panel reviewing the proposal, agreed with the benefits of autonomy outlined in House Bill 16-9, or the proposed Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Act of 2008.

"In my view, [this bill] offers the CNMI a way to strengthen and improve the delivery of healthcare services in the CNMI. For this reason, my office supports the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Act of 2008 and urges its approval," said Tudela.



Tudela

The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare held public hearings to receive comments and testimonies from Saipan residents last week.

In the next two weeks, the committee will bring the proposal to Tinian and Rota residents for their review and comment. Public hearings will be held on May 27, at 6:30pm, at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria, and on June 6, 2008, also at 6:30pm, at the Rota Round House.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, says that a Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation would "coordinate the delivery of quality health-

care to all Commonwealth residents in a financially responsible manner."

The proposed legislation would abolish the Department of Public Health and replace it with a corporation headed by a chief executive officer and a seven-member board of trustees.

The goal is to make the hospital financially independent from the government. But the bill prohibits the corporation from turning away low-income

patients in need of healthcare. This means that some appropriations will be made from the CNMI general fund until a comprehensive healthcare financing system, such as universal mandatory minimum health insurance coverage for all CNMI residents, has been enacted. The CNMI government, not the corporation, will continue to be liable for unpaid medical referral charges from outside health care facilities. (Agnes E. Donato)

MEMORIAL

From Page 6

they go into combat, speaks volumes of their special devotion to our nation. Although they may not be present, their legacy resonates in life's simplest freedoms," the proclamation states.

A Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi on Monday, May 26, at 9am.

Ruth Coleman, executive director of the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office, said the ceremony will feature ceremonial music by the Pacific Winds Concert Band, as well as laying of the wreath, 21 Rifle Salute and Echo Taps. The keynote speaker will be Rear Admiral William French, Commander Naval Forces Marianas. Coleman said everyone is welcome to attend the event. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)



Northern Marianas College

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Lease of Document Copier/Scanner/Printer

The Northern Marianas College Bookstore is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the lease of a document copier/scanner/printer with network capability. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., June 2nd, 2008, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

In accordance with CNMI Public Law 15-95 and 15-118, Local Preference applications may be submitted for this procurement.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu), or call NMC Procurement Office at (670) 234-5498 extensions 2300/01/02.

All Proposers are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement; all individuals, and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan
Acting, NMC Procurement Officer

/s/ Bernie P. Sablan
NMC Bookstore Manager

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Man wanted by authorities finally arrested

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was wanted by authorities for allegedly beating up his girlfriend and then trying to conceal the bruises by making love marks below her chin was finally arrested at his residence in As Lito on Friday.

Mario Muna Reyes, 38, is now in jail for alleged assault and battery and con-

tempt of court.

Reyes was brought to Superior Court for a bail hearing Monday morning.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama imposed \$2,000 cash bail before remanding him to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Preliminary hearing was set for May 28 while arraignment will be held on June 9.

According to the affidavit of Detective Andrea C. Ozawa that was submitted to court, the suspect was arrested for beating up his girlfriend between April 30 and May 1 at his residence in As Lito.

The affidavit stated that the victim's brother had stopped by the defendant's residence where the victim was staying to pick some local fruit.

After the victim's brother left, the victim remained outside, arousing the defendant's

jealousy, the affidavit stated.

Reyes told the victim to get inside the house but she refused and started to walk away from the house.

The defendant allegedly chased the victim, grabbed her left arm, and then dragged her into the bedroom. The defendant slapped the victim several times, causing a black eye and bruises on her chin.

After the alleged assault, Reyes reportedly tried to hide the bruises by making love marks below the victim's chin, the affidavit said.

The victim was afraid to leave the As Lito residence as Reyes never left the victim's side until the day he left to sell scrap metal.

The victim told her mother what had happened, and it was she who called the Department of Public Safety on May 3 to report that her

daughter had been assaulted by the defendant.

According to the affidavit, the victim had asked the court for a temporary restraining order last year and an order of protection against the same defendant.

The protection order was dismissed later and the victim and suspect got back together "sometime this year."

The affidavit stated that the defendant has a pending bail order modified on Sept. 28, 2007.

The bail order was based in a 2007 domestic violence incident involving the same victim. The conditions required the defendant to stay away from the victim and any witnesses and to obey all Commonwealth laws.

The 2007 case is still pending, therefore the bail order is still active.



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Saipan Tribune

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 23, 2000

Illegal drugs seized

Surprise inspections conducted by a combined team from the Department of Public Health, Attorney General's Office and Department of Public Safety on five health clinics on Saipan revealed that some of these establishments were dispensing controlled substances and possessing medical devices illegally. This led to the arrest of one Chinese individual suspected of performing unlicensed medical procedure. The Chinese businessman was released pending the filing of appropriate charges. His acupuncture clinic was closed for operating without a sanitary health permit and a medical license.

Bank assets soar 10 percent in Q1

Amid hardships in all the other business activities in the Northern Marianas, the local finance sector continue to manifest resilience as bank assets soared 10 percent in the first three months of the year to \$596.308 million from \$544.429 million during the same period of last year. This translates to almost \$52 million in additional bank assets in just a 12-month period, or an increase of more than \$6 million since end-December 1999. A report obtained from the Banking and Insurance Division of the commerce department disclosed bank assets reached \$589.9 million by end-1999.

Teno: Let's save energy, water

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has ordered departments and agencies to turn power off after office hours and check faucets for leaks as part of his effort to cut down government utility costs amid its mounting debt to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. He issued a memorandum last week after CUC Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero had asked him to implement drastic conservation measures while the administration is seeking ways to reduce outstanding balance that has now reached at over \$12 million.

MAY 23, 2001

CNMI steps up fight vs international criminals

CNMI law enforcement agencies have pledged anew support to international efforts that aim to curb fraudulent activities amid fears that illegal operations especially in the international scale have taken more sophisticated forms. High-ranking officials from throughout the Pacific rim convened in Honolulu last week to renew cooperation efforts during the annual Pacific Basin Customs Service Conference.

NIMO launches development plan

The Northern Islands Mayor's Office officially unveiled a 90-page-thick plan containing a well-studied proposal to develop the Northern Islands. Copies of the development sketch have been distributed to local leaders, lawmakers, and members of the community in a bid to spread the word of NIMO's seriousness with regard to following through its long-term goals.

Car sales soar 32 percent

Commonwealth Automobile Dealers' Association President Carlos Camacho believes the 32 percent increase in car sales during the first four months of 2001 was spurred by the stronger rally of the local economy. In the January-April period, the four dealerships on the island have already sold a total of 382 units. During the same period last year auto dealers sold only 290 units.

MAY 23, 2002

Tribune reporter wins US-EPA award

Saipan Tribune's commitment to the preservation and protection of the environment bore good fruits, with no less than the federal government's lead environmental agency recognizing this devotion. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has selected Saipan Tribune reporter John Ravelo to be one of this year's recipients of the 2002 Environmental Achievement Award.

CNMI's recoverable funds reach \$7.09M

The Commonwealth government can potentially recover more than \$7.09 million if it applies itself in getting back these monies, which comprises unpaid land lease rentals, overpayments in service contracts, and improper expenditure of public funds. An Office of the Public Auditor tracking report on the CNMI agencies implementation of audit recommendations showed that the recovery of these public funds hinges on the actions of the Attorney General's Office and the agencies concerned.

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Ex-beauty titlist graduates magna cum laude

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
Jackie_delaacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Former 2001 Miss CNMI World Tracy Del Rosario, 24, recently graduated with magna cum laude honors from the Chaminate University in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Del Rosario, who attended Marianas High School on Saipan, received her bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education on May 12, but still wants to pursue a master's degree.

Her mother, Rose Del Rosario, said that "Tracy promised that she would try her best in school, and not only did she do her best but she also passed with honors. Her father and I are very proud of her."

Rose is a social worker with the Attorney General's Office while Tracy's father, John Del Rosario, works at the Northern Marianas College as an archivist.

Tracy's sister, Tricia, graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Northern Marianas College, while brother John Del Rosario graduated NMC with a Criminal Justice degree.

Speaking of her experience in Honolulu, Tracy Del Rosario states that "it's been a wonderful two and a half years of college journey out here. Life has been difficult at times, but my strong faith in God has kept me going with the support of my family. Hawaii is indeed paradise! Living independently is very challenging—you would bring out your best qualities and know your real strength and weaknesses."

She expressed a love for children and working with them and she finds that teaching is the best way to reach out to kids.

She attributes her motivation to God, her family, and the people of Saipan and points to her parents as her role models. "My parents believe that we can conquer the world by empowering our minds through education," she said.

When asked for words of advice for her peers, Tracy said: "Education is never too late! Continue to strive for the best and believe in yourself that you can do it! All it takes is dedication, passion, and determination! All of this is possible with the support and encouragement of your

parents, families, and friends. It won't be easy at times, but once the hard part is over, trust that you can conquer the next step ahead and higher! College life is an inexplicable experience, no one can truly explain the journey you will encounter, so go for it and you'll succeed!"

Her future plans are to resume her position as the accreditation assistant coordinator and field services personnel at Chaminate University's Education Division. She will be working directly with the accreditation director and Field Services Directors in the Education Division. Also, she will be starting a master's program in July, majoring in Education with emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former 2001 Miss CNMI World Tracy Del Rosario is joined by families and friends during her graduation.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Illegal fishing

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's help for information on individual(s) involved in illegal fishing at the Bird Island Sanctuary (includes Bird Island and the Grotto). Pictures taken at the Grotto site by local divers show evidence of mono filament fishing line, hooks and primitive sinkers, used for fishing.

Crime Stoppers would like to remind the community that it is against the law to fish in sanctuaries. It is also illegal to use fishing devices, such as explosives, poisons (cyanide, bleach, Clorox, derris, saponin), electric shocking devices, scuba spear fishing, hookah, drag net/beach seine, trap net, surround net and gill net.

Anyone having information about this crime may call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. (Crime Stoppers)

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

He's still out there

As President Bush jetted home from the Middle East on Sunday, Osama bin Laden stuck his bloody thumb in the president's eye yet again, releasing his second recorded message in three days. The first was a commentary on the occasion of Israel's 60th anniversary, and the second was an epistle on Gaza, in which bin Laden, answering Bush's speech to the Israeli Knesset, called on true Muslims to overthrow the Arab regimes that have failed to stop Israel from oppressing the Palestinians.

But the release of the messages didn't make page one of any major American newspaper, including this one. Seven years have passed since Bush vowed to capture bin Laden "dead or alive." Is there truly nothing newsworthy in the mastermind of the murder of nearly 3,000 American civilians having no difficulty providing well-timed spin to counter the messages Bush tried to deliver to the Middle East?

Or have we collectively grown so numb after years of failure in the so-called global war on terror that we have accepted that bin Laden cannot be found? If so, this is indeed the soft bigotry of low expectations. We delude ourselves if we believe that bin Laden's survival doesn't matter or that his ideology is in decline. The State Department's latest report on terrorism concludes that al-Qaida and its affiliates remain the greatest terrorist threat to the United States.

And are Americans truly so familiar with bin Laden's thinking that we need not pay close attention to what he is saying? That would have come as a surprise to President Lincoln, who studied the remarks of Confederate rival Jefferson Davis, or to his successors, who deemed it vital to listen to Hitler, Stalin, Mao and Ho Chi Minh. North Vietnamese Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap famously informed his American counterparts exactly how he would defeat them—and then did so. Michael Scheuer, former head of the CIA's bin Laden unit, says the enemy leader's actions have been unusually true to his word—and that's important because, in his latest message, he answers critics who say Muslims must never kill other Muslims by arguing that the great warrior Saladin would never have liberated Jerusalem from the Crusaders if he had been prohibited from killing fellow Muslims.

Bin Laden will be waiting to humiliate the next U.S. president as surely as he has Bush. The question is whether the new president will know his enemy any better, or prove any more skillful at playing America's weakened hand.

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Short tale of *The Long Tail*

With gasoline climbing uncomfortably close to five bucks a gallon, our manufacturing sector about to get statutorily clobbered, and home electricity bills that are higher than many car payments, happy thoughts are hard to come by. Sure, our pipe-dream crowd, which has long provided belly-laughs and entertainment to outside observers, still has Rainbow Schemes, but the pathetic impotence of these chronic talkers seems to accentuate Saipan's utter helplessness. So, isn't there any good news to be had?

Well, yes. In a way. Sort of. If you're looking for an optimistic context to consider, at least from a broad perspective, take a look at a new paperback book titled *The Long Tail*, scribed by Chris Anderson (Hyperion Press, \$14).

Anderson, a former writer for *The Economist* magazine, and now editor in chief of *Wired* magazine, has a premise that we already know: The Internet is changing the economic landscape, at least insofar as marketing and selling go.

The playing field for commerce is being leveled by the Internet. A small place like Saipan no longer means, necessarily, being consigned to the peripheral death row of market access. Thanks to the twin blessings of the U.S. postal service and an excellent Internet infrastructure, Saipan, cyber-wise, is essentially as close to mainland buyers as Chicago or New York are. OK, maybe that's a bit of a stretch, and it wouldn't apply if you're trying to sell my hidden, five-ton stash of used copper, but you get my point.

Still this does, or can, hold promise for certain types of small-scale enterprises. In fact, I've seen two Saipan-based small outfits do just that, they sold stuff to the mainland, though one eventually threw in the towel, and the other moved off-island (and is still a going, and growing, concern).

And in the services realm, it's easy to understand that a graphic artist, or a writer, or a financial analyst, or a Web page writer, or a computer programmer, can deliver their services from Saipan just as well as they could from Los Angeles. Besides, those 3:42am calls from clients will keep you on your toes; what could be better?

The term "long tail," by the way, refers to the nether regions of the normal curve (it's a statistics thing). The point is that the effi-

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs on Fridays. Visit Ed at Saipan-Blog.com and TropicalEd.com.



ciencies of the Internet have opened up the otherwise too-small-to-care-about market niches that are far from the Big Money Middle.

In other words, as some people like to say, "little is the new big." Little companies selling their products to little niches of little markets are getting a bigger aggregate share of commerce. That, by the way, is a huge concept. One example of this powerful mechanism is, of course, eBay.

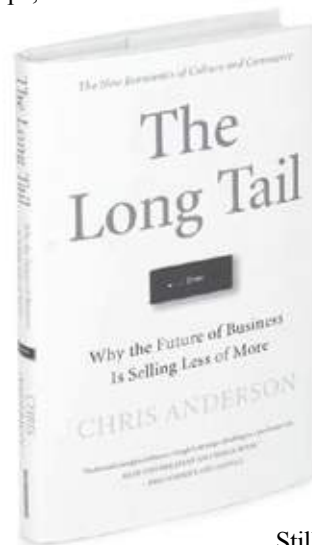
The Long Tail is extremely well-written. The book also includes some very insightful information and data on the retailing industry. Anderson spins some good yarns, too, and gives, for example, an interesting thumbnail sketch of how the mighty Sears company was founded.

I will admit that much of the book was skip-over material for me, given that it dwells, at length, on the entertainment industry. But if that's your cup of tea, you'll find a mighty big serving of it.

The long tail effect certainly won't provide a bunch of jobs for Saipan. It won't replace the garment industry. Nor will it find employment for those who lack genuine, market-based skills; so as great as the Internet is, eBay can't hand out patronage jobs.

Still, for what remains of Saipan's private sector, *The Long Tail* is an inspiring, thoughtful, and informative look at a phenomenon that we're all involved with, but that we have a hard time getting real perspective on. This is a great book, and it comes along at a great time for many of us, as we strive to find some genuine reasons for optimism.

Best of all, as of yesterday, BestSeller had four copies in stock, which does go to show you that even in the cyber-age, a good brick-and-mortar store is still a blessing to be heeded.



EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letter to the Editor

A slander against alien workers

As I am busy helping alien contract workers in the Commonwealth—workers it appears the Department of Labor now presumes are lying (see Cinta Kaipat (purportedly) letter to the editor on May 22, 2008)—I generally don't have the time or the inclination to respond to the inane rhetoric I occasionally read in the Commonwealth print media (meaning I occasionally read letters to the editor, not that there is only occasionally inane rhetoric from rather prolific writers). This time, however, I cannot help but respond to the comments of the Deputy Secretary of Labor, not in defense of Wendy Dormal necessarily, but in defense of the wrongly accused alien contract workers and worker advocates, generally.

Actually, I should not say that the CNMI Department of Labor is only now aggressively advancing the proposition that “most workers only want one thing...to remain in the Commonwealth as long as possible,” and to that end they will “make almost any untrue assertion without fear of contradiction.” That misguided belief has existed for as long as I have been here, albeit in the past it was a mostly unspoken position. Now it appears regularly in letters to the editor by public officials.

In the past, it was the government advocates of the garment industry that cast such aspersion on such a disenfranchised group of individuals (think convicted felon and former CNMI Labor Secretary Mark Zachares). What is more shocking now, however, is the broader scope of Department's assertion and the inclusion of *worker advocates* as a focus of the Department of Labor's misguided and arguably racist attitude (yeah, I said it, racist). It is

equally troubling the lengths to which the Department appears willing to go to spread this propaganda, apparently believing that if government officials just say stuff over and over again, the naive public will eventually believe that it is true. For those in the dark, the propaganda campaign is titled “Public Education and Outreach” and is guided by two very gifted spin doctors.

Further, the irony of the Department's statement that “a very high proportion” of wage cases are abandoned by the workers is apparently over the heads of its officials. Questions: If workers know they cannot collect unpaid wages from deadbeat employers, then why fight for the wages? If Labor officials provide absolutely no assistance to the workers or even investigate the claims, then why purse them? Do you think maybe those are factors in workers' decisions to abandon the unpaid wages and move on? Hmmm. It might also be a factor in why workers have a hard time finding advocates to help them collect unpaid wages (at least advocates that don't charge exorbitant fees up front which makes it hardly worth the effort).

And the Department's position that the workers can collect their own wages through the courts is equally laughable. I am an attorney and I believe I speak English fairly well. I don't like small claims court and have actually had little success collecting against foreign business owners that owe money—there is a reason they owe the money. You really think alien workers with limited or no English skills are going to be able to collect in court? Try it yourself first in English, then try it in a foreign language

with or without a “translator” that will surely take a large, but undisclosed portion of your recovery. Then try it with a full-time job where if you miss one day for court you get fired.

And whatever happened to wage bond enforcement (now called a “security contract”)? Whatever happened to the Labor Trust Account Revolving Fund? Aren't those supposed to be sources for payment to workers for defaulting employers? Doesn't the Department have an obligation to administer those worker protection programs; pay out from the trust and collect on bonds? Or does that cater too much to the lying workers and undermine the government's now explicit complaining alien eradication policy, a.k.a. Public Law 15-108. Is it proper policy for the Department to burden the Superior Court by shirking the responsibilities rightly placed with the Department by statute? How many of those non-paying employers are allowed to hire new alien contract workers? Oh, yeah, there are no non-paying employers; the workers are all making up claims.

The very idea that the Commonwealth Department of Labor offers greater protections to workers in the CNMI than is available to workers in the states is ridiculous. By its own admission, the Department actually investigates and enforces relatively few unpaid wage cases out of the large number of complaints that are filed. The United States Department of Labor, on the other hand, takes a very active role (even on Saipan) in enforcing unpaid wage determinations after complaints are made. Failure to pay has serious consequences including additional fines and enforcement ac-

tions. The United States Department of Labor files lawsuits—yes lawsuits—against employers who fail to comply with its administrative decisions. Here in the Commonwealth, the Department doesn't even seek to enforce its fines, much less hold employers accountable for unpaid wage orders.

Given the continuing need of CNMI employers for alien workers, you would think it an easy thing to coerce compliance with administrative orders. Proper employment practices is not the objective of the Department—I have argued that all along.

In the past, worker advocates have successfully challenged in the courts many of the positions now being taken by the Department of Labor. Labor officials, apparently undeterred by the possibility of personal liability, have decided to try again. The question is: Why? The answer eludes me.

Finally, I find it appalling that the Department of Labor would take the position that alien workers with unpaid wages somehow get an undue benefit through liquidated damages. First, such a statement shows complete ignorance of the traditional role of liquidated damages in employment law—to make the employee whole for having to wait and sacrifice to get what was always owed to him or her. Second, it further defines the role of the Department against the interest of the alien contract worker.

And don't mislead the public. Under federal law, liquidated damages for unpaid wages is generally mandatory, and that goes back three years—not the inequitable six months contained in Ms. Kaipat's Public Law 15-108. Although I strongly disagree with the policy and I continue to chal-

lenge decisions, the CNMI Department of Labor's prevailing position on damages for unprovided future work is that the worker is NOT entitled to liquidated damages. So don't misrepresent that workers somehow get an undeserved double recovery in circumstances where the Department itself disallows such a recovery.

Ms. Kaipat, your letter to the editor typifies the sort of slander that is tearing this community and this fragile economy apart. You are not promoting any discernable good. You are not promoting local jobs. You are not promoting good business practices. You are promoting hatred, intolerance, paranoia, fear, and deception and fostering abusive employment practices. The workers need a voice. That should go without saying. They are the majority. Like it or not, they and their children are the future of the Commonwealth. That cannot be denied. As soon as people like you accept that, we can move on and start building an economy and a local workforce that can survive Federal takeover of immigration. The course we're on now promises just the opposite.

I am sure you or the true Ruler of Labor, Deanne Seimer (and probably the author of Ms. Kaipat's letter) will now write back with personal attacks against me filled with the same sort of lies and spin contained in your last letter with my name on it. I expect it. I don't welcome it. I have a job to do and this is not it. I suggest the same is true for you. Do your job. Stop all the propaganda, and do your job.

Mark B. Hanson
Garapan, Saipan

Leave all conservation measures to the people of the CNMI

I have been reading and hearing lately a lot about the proposed National Monument from supporters and non-supporters, indigenous and non-indigenous, males and females. I must say that the comments and statements being brought about have been both interesting and surprising, and at times somewhat bizarre.

I had worked for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for over 18 years and had to the opportunity to serve as Director at the Division of Fish and Wildlife and as Department Secretary. With my tenure at the department and having grown up on Saipan all my life, I have the great privilege of interacting with our community, especially our marine resources stake-holders, in dealing with management and conservation measures. The one thing that really stands out for me in this regard is the idea of getting our people (stake-holders) involve from the very beginning, not later when everything had already

been put together and for them to simply accept and support.

For 30 years since we have become a U.S. Commonwealth, the CNMI have been able to enact constitutional mandates, legislate laws and promulgate rules and regulations in the name of conservation without the aid and delegation of outsiders. Our people have led in the region in enacting conservation measures for the protection and sustainability of our natural resources. Our Commonwealth has more designated Marine Sanctuary, Wildlife Conservation Islands and more prohibited fishing gear than any other government in our region. Simply said, we are proactive when it comes to the protection of our natural resources. We can honestly say that we do what we need to do to ensure that our resources are used sustainably for the sake of our future generations.

However, the movement for the declaration of a National Monument in the

northern islands led by the Pew Charitable Trust Fund is troubling and something to be concerned with. I have no problem with conservation and the need to set aside in perpetuity an area for the sake of conservation. I have been involved in a number of similar measures and I totally understand the importance and need of having it. However, one must be cautious in going about with it and that primary stake-holders are not left in the dark at the very beginning. What Pew is doing is contrary to this. By the way, who from the CNMI asked them to come up with their proposal? At any rate, the troubling activities Pew has arrogantly carried out are:

- Developed and drafted a proposed National Monument for the CNMI without any collaboration with anyone;
- Decided what is best (level of conservation, size of the monument, activity restrictions, traditional practices, economic prosperity, etc.) for the CNMI without consulting anyone;

- Delivered their proposal to the people of the CNMI for their acceptance and support, not opposition;

- Ignored the position of the government to which the people of the CNMI have elected to represent them;

- Brought people in to the CNMI who are members of a coalition funded by Pew to deliver the positive messages of their proposal.

What do you expect from a person like that? I do not support the Pew proposal and I hope our people understand where I'm coming from. I can't force any of you not to support it but I hope each and everyone can ask yourself the following questions before making that decision.

1. Are you willing to give up forever one-third of the entire CNMI waters no matter what economic opportunities may arrive in the future?
2. Should we allow outsiders to decide how our natural resources be managed?
3. Are we intelligent enough to know

what is best for our people and that we are more than capable of managing our own resources?

4. Do we govern ourselves or do we let a Presidential signature 10,000 miles away dictate our future of the northern islands?

Taotao Marianas, this is not a simple matter to be taken lightly. We have a situation here where we basically had no say in the proposal's mission and objectives. I do not appreciate the fact that I am given something without my input and direct participation to accept and support that will take away something from me forever. The route and manner the Pew Charitable Trust Fund is going about with its proposal is a direct insult of our people and ignorance of our battered but still-alive self-governance. Thank you very much *yan si yuus maase para todus taoatao Marianas!*

Richard Benavente Seman
As Lito, Saipan

Pew, outsiders, and online petitions

I was recently made aware that a Hawaii-based communications and marketing consultant (i.e., Scott Foster and Associates) and a coalition of Hawaiian environmental groups (i.e., Western and Central Pacific Network)

are joining the Pew Charitable Trusts in attempting to create the perception of broad-based support for the Pew-proposed marine monument in the CNMI. I naively assumed the Monument proposal would be addressed from a local

viewpoint; however Pew apparently feels the need to involve outsiders to bolster their failing campaign.

The Western and Central Pacific Network is a coalition of environmental groups based in Hawaii with most

of its members receiving, directly or indirectly, Pew funding (my understanding). Mr. Scott Foster is a media consultant who was hired directly by the Pew Charitable Trust during the NWHI Monument campaign and is now the






spokesperson for the W&CPN. There is an interesting letter of appreciation to Mr. Foster from the Pew Charitable Trusts (Mr. Jay Nelson) at <http://www.scottfoster.org/doc/PewLOR.jpg>.

See PEW on Page 14

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼71
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲86 ▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼73

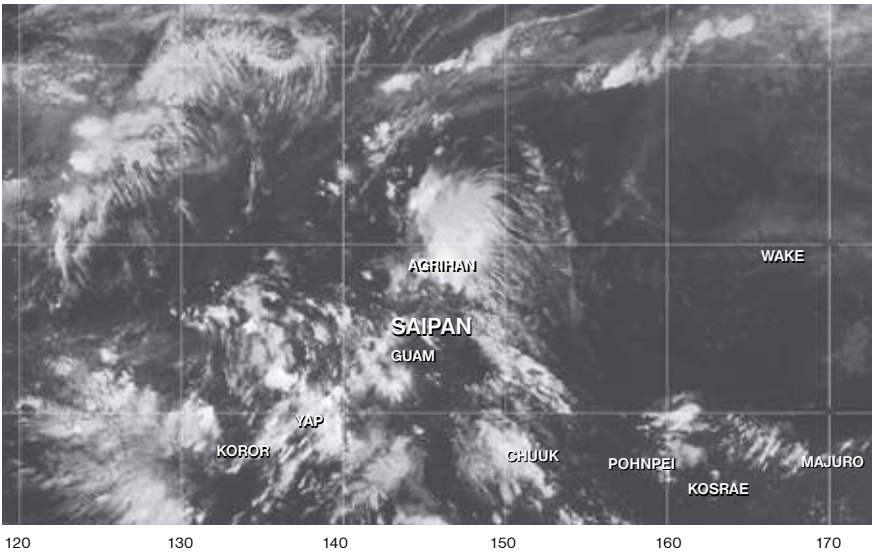
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲57 ▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲93 ▼64
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼73
London	Showers	▲70 ▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲63 ▼58
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲60 ▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼76
New York	Partly Sunny	▲69 ▼53
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼59
Paris	Cloudy	▲72 ▼56
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼61
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼56
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲64 ▼51
Seoul	Cloudy	▲75 ▼55
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼61
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲71 ▼51

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:56AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:15AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:54PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:16PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered north of Agrihan near 20N145E. Divergence associated with this low is combining with trade-wind convergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over and east of the extreme Northern Marianas and southeastward to northeast of Chuuk within 175 miles of a line from 24N146E to 17N147E and continuing within 125 miles of a line from 17N147E to 10N154E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also occurring west of Guam and near Yap and Palau from 2N to 18N between 130E and 143E. Trade wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 90 miles of a line from 1N147E to 3N145E. This area is southeast of Koror and southwest of Chuuk. A trough running from 1N155E to 9N149E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 50 miles of the trough. Trade wind convergence combined with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 9N159E to 7N169E. This area is north of Pohnpei and Kosrae and south of Kwajalein.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47AM	6:41PM
Saturday	5:46AM	6:41PM
Sunday	5:46AM	6:42PM
Monday	5:46AM	6:42PM
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:42PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:26PM	7:54AM
Saturday	10:13PM	8:47AM
Sunday	10:56PM	9:40AM
Monday	11:37PM	10:33AM
Tuesday		11:25AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

Open letter on current measures against sex trafficking in CNMI

This letter is addressed to the citizens of the Commonwealth to explain the improvements we have made at the Labor Department in countering sex trafficking into the Commonwealth.

Under the new labor law, P.L. 15-108, there is a required orientation session for every new entrant into the Commonwealth. The new labor law came into effect on January 1, 2008. Every foreign worker is interviewed personally at the Labor Department. Orientation sessions are held every Tuesday morning, so no one is in the Commonwealth for more than six days before attending orientation. If someone who enters as a foreign worker does not show up for orientation, they are required to leave the Commonwealth immediately.

At the orientation session, the attendees are given a presentation on their rights and responsibilities as foreign workers in the Commonwealth. The attendees are told how to report any labor problems they may encounter, including any instance in which they are asked to participate in sex industry activities. The workers are then interviewed by the Director of Labor or one of his staff to ascertain that their affidavits and entry documents are genuine; they have located their employer and have the job that was promised in their contract; they have adequate housing; and they are not engaged in any sex industry activities.

The orientation sessions have been highly effective in spotting fraudulent documents, identifying illegal sponsorships, and making sure that foreign workers get off to a good start in the Commonwealth.

The Labor Department also requires employers to send a standard written notice to prospective foreign workers before they depart from their home countries explaining working conditions and rights and responsibilities as foreign workers in the Commonwealth. In addition, P.L. 15-108 mandates early reporting and mediation of employment disputes, before they erupt into full-blown labor cases. This system is explained to all incoming workers.

The Labor Department is confident that the new system under P.L. 15-108, as enacted by unanimous vote of the Legislature last November, will be an important factor in eliminating sex trafficking in the Commonwealth as it affects the foreign workers who are part of the labor pool management system operated by the Department. No state in the United States has this kind of individualized attention to each foreign worker who enters for purposes of employment. The Labor Department's scarce personnel resources have been somewhat strained by the requirements of this new system, but the results have been very rewarding.

In addition, in December

2007, the Governor issued emergency regulations halting the entry of any new unskilled workers into the Commonwealth. Those regulations have been enforced diligently by the Department. In the past, most sex trafficking victims have been unskilled workers recruited as waitresses or for similar jobs. The ban on entry by unskilled workers has an important place in the anti-trafficking efforts.

Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas and I, together with our Labor Department personnel, remain committed to doing everything in our power to eliminate the stain of alleged sex trafficking from the Commonwealth, and we urge every citizen and resident of the Commonwealth to be on the lookout for and to report any such activities as promptly as possible. All information received from the public will be treated confidentially and will be followed up quickly.

Cinta M. Kaipat
Deputy Secretary of Labor

Miller Lite TASTES BETTER LIVE

CLUB **BACK2BACK** WITH

REMYX & **BIGGAH & BETTAH BAND (DIRECT FROM GUAM)**

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DOORS OPEN 9PM

\$5 COVER CHARGE
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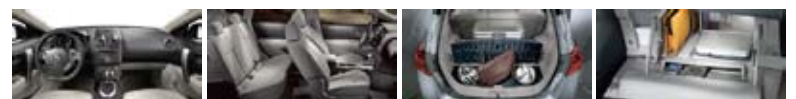
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Versa S	#7L398849	White	\$15,990.00	Sportage	#77354358	Jade	\$17,695.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	\$26,990.00	Sorento	#65602982	Green	\$18,995.00
FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Ranger	#7PA31119	White	\$16,990.00	Fit	#7S031086	Silver	\$14,995.00
Fusion	#7R114053	White	\$19,990.00	Fit Sport	#7S031103	White	\$16,495.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	\$19,990.00	Civic DX	#7L061948	White	\$16,995.00
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Letter to the Editor

Save the islands' trees

Someone needs to be thanked, but I don't know who. Recently three large flame trees near the old dump have been rid of

scarlet gourd vine. This vine was killing these large beautiful trees until someone chopped done the vine. So to whoever

did this, thank you.

It seems to me, and I'm no expert, that the growth of the scarlet gourd vine may soon

be Saipan and Tinian's big environmental nightmare, like the brown tree snake is to Guam. It covers a large part of both islands and is growing exponentially. I understand some beetles have been released in an effort to slow the growth rate. But slowing the growth rate just means the islands will soon be completely covered with the vine, soon, just not as soon as it might have been. There is no plan and no effort to reclaim the loss of trees and other plants to this intruder. At least someone has saved three trees. It would be nice for an organization of agency to make an effort to reclaim parts of Saipan. Even in economic hard times, a small crew with machetes and weed killer maybe able to do a lot to protect the future. A vine-covered rock with massive erosion

is no tourist destination.

Speaking of the future, just a quick comment on the now comatose, if not dead, underwater federal monument. There was an article in the local paper that basically explains how the CNMI has killed the proposal. Then there was an unrelated article the same week about how Samoa is sending a proposal to the federal government asking the federal government to create a national monument there. It seems a proposal similar to the one the CNMI has rejected is actually being sought by Samoa. Two different island governments with similar desperate economic problems and environmental issues. Both have a similar relationship to the federal government. One seems to be looking for new things to try with the assistance and input from the federal government. The other

has a "just say no" approach to the federal government. A person could get the impression that Samoa is looking for new and creative solutions to current and future problems while the CNMI is fighting to maintain its downward spiral. This is just an impression someone could get.

But in any event, either Samoa or the CNMI is making a big mistake. Someone has been misled, misinformed, yes lied to and even duped. A national monument is either good for the people of those islands and the environment or it's not. Only one island government is doing the right thing for the future of its people and islands. The question now is which one. Time will tell. Anyone want to place a bet?

Fred Hovnaton
San Jose

PEW

From Page 11

As the communications director of the recently formed W&CPN, Mr. Scott Foster sent out an e-mail dated May 13, 2008 soliciting outside (i.e., worldwide) support for the proposed National Monument in the Mariana Islands. He was asking for people's support of the marine monument by voting on the recent Saipan Tribune online poll and the online petition titled "Protect the Mariana Trench" (<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/marianatrench-monument>). Interestingly in his e-mail, Mr. Foster refers to those people who oppose the marine monument as "the forces of evil". I found his comment quite disturbing....

This is the same media tactic that Pew, their advocates, and paid consultants, including Mr.

Scott Foster and the W&CPN members, used when they took the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands away from the Hawaiian people. Results from using these web-based activist sites will be used by Pew to show broad based support for the NMI Monument. Of course, it goes without saying the great majority of those voting in these petition-mills has no idea of the facts surrounding the issues, nor has a vested interest in the outcome.

How many times have we heard the claim of the many thousands of comments received during the public comment period when the NWHI Sanctuary management plan was being developed? As an example of what I am talking about, I wanted to share with you the results of an analysis conducted on public comments received by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) addressing draft fishing regula-

tions (among other related issues) for the NWHI National Marine Sanctuary. This data was presented at the 126th Council meeting held in Honolulu on 15-17 March 2005. A total of 14,356 e-mails were submitted under the public response category "Form Letters Generally In Favor of Strongest Protection Possible, Consistent with the Executive Orders, National Marine Sanctuaries Act and the Goals and Objectives for the Proposed Sanctuary." With the impressive public response to draft management plans, one could assume there was an outpouring of genuine interest from the Hawaiian communities in determining the direction of resource management. However, when you look at the details, only 419 e-mails (3 percent) were from Hawaii, while the remaining 13,937 e-mails (97 percent) originated from the U.S. mainland and foreign countries. Basically, non-Hawaiians were telling Hawaii how they wanted Hawaii to manage their marine resources! Of course this is no accident. These numbers are easily orchestrated by certain agenda-driven enviro-extremist groups via online polls where e-mail comments are sent automatically by the click of a mouse.

This is exactly what is going on right now with the proposed marine monument in the CNMI. With respect to the current online petition "Protect the Mariana Trench", as of 2200 hours on May 21, 2008, a total of 61 people clicked their mouse to show their support for President Bush to permanently designate a 115,000 square-mile "no-take" marine preserve (= Monument) in the CNMI. The breakdown of voters, by region, follows: elsewhere in the U.S. (72 percent); CNMI/Guam (15 percent); and foreign countries (13 percent). How do you think Pew will use this data?

I believe this petition is an insult to the people of the Mariana Islands. I would not want to be the one to present this petition to our Governor or elected representatives.

John Gourley
Navy Hill



The CNMI Head Start Program is pleased to announce Open Registration for School year 2008-2009



REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Only parents or legal guardians are authorized to register their child(ren).

- ❑ Child(ren) birth certificate.
- ❑ Head Start Program Forms 3, 4 & 5 (copies can be obtained at the Head Start Office)
- ❑ Social Security Card
- ❑ School Health Entrance Certificate and medical insurance (if any).
- ❑ Parent's/Guardian's verification of income (2 of your most current check stubs or other public assistance, such as Medicaid, WIC or Nutrition Assistance).
- ❑ Passport/Visa/Immigration Permit (for non-residents)
- ❑ Legal Guardians must provide notarized documents stipulating the guardianship of child(ren).
- ❑ **Parents of children with disabilities are required to bring their child(ren) current IEP or IFSP.**

Please be advised that the Head Start Program is a Federally Funded program that has Eligibility and Selection Criteria's. Registering your child does not guarantee automatic enrollment. The program currently enrolls between the ages of 3-5 years old.

Children cannot be accepted into the program prior to their 3rd birthday.

For more information:

Please visit office at any Head Start Center near you
#1256 Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan

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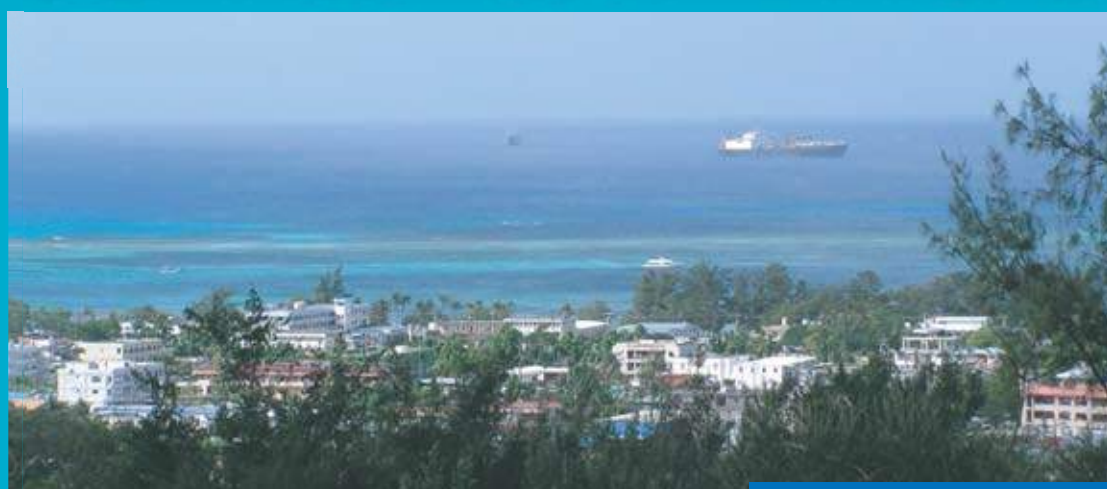


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TOYOTA SEDANS

U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	\$14,999	
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GM CARS

R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	\$9,599	\$7,599
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	\$9,599	\$7,599
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	\$6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	\$9,599	\$7,599
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	\$9,599	\$7,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	\$10,999	\$9,499

LEXUS

R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	\$29,999	\$28,999
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TOYOTA TRUCKS

U08-027T	1997	T100 4X4 X/CAB	MANUAL	116578	GREEN	ABG-118	\$5,999	
U08-024R	2006	TACOMA 4X4 A/CAB	MANUAL	46950	RED	CWMAN001	\$16,099	
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	\$15,999	\$13,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	\$11,999	\$10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	\$12,499	\$11,999

OTHER CARS & TRUCKS

U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	\$11,599	\$10,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	\$8,999	\$7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	\$8,999	\$7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	\$10,999	\$8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	\$16,799	\$15,299
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENNIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	\$7,999	\$7,099
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	\$10,899	

SPORT UTILITY

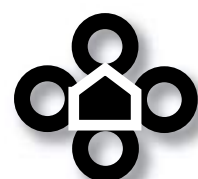
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAGNE	ABY-153	\$14,599	\$12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	\$13,699	\$12,799
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		\$14,599	\$12,599
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR. 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	\$19,485	\$19,099



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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Seahorse Marine Sports' captain Steve Igisaiair and Lucian George look at the 6-foot-long, 500-lb. marlin they caught about 3 to 4 miles from Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Wednesday.

Tourists land 500-lb marlin

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
Jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

A group of tourists who went fishing was thrilled after unexpectedly catching a 500-lb marlin during a four-hour struggle a few miles off the coast of Garapan yesterday morning.

The boat's captain, Steven Igisaiair, from Seahorse Marine Sports Company, said all of them were shouting for joy when they finally hauled in the six-foot fish into their fishing boat.

Igisaiair told Saipan Tribune that he and one crewmember, along with six tourists, had been trolling on board the company's Olympic 21-footer fishing boat about three to four miles west of Fiesta Resort & Spa. The tour-

ists were Yokohama Seven Co., Ltd.'s Atsushi Nakagawa (president), Kenji Ota, Takao Sakai, Yoshitaka Nakagawa, Akihiro Makino, and Tomonori Sasaki.

Igisaiair said he was the first one to see the marlin trying to catch the bait at 7:35am.

Igisaiair, the crewmember and one tourist helped each other reel in the line when the marlin was subsequently hooked.

They brought the fish to shore near Fiesta Resort, where about 50 local residents and tourists had their pictures taken with the monstrous fish.

"That's my fish, I'm going to use it as sashimi," said Igisaiair.

"This is the first time I've seen a big marlin since last year of August," said local witness Ramon Dador.

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on two sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from American Memorial Park and the drainage south of Fiesta Resort on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical

environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Tinian and Managaha beaches are assigned a green flag.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha. The agency welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

Incentive program for doctors in rural areas pushed



Tenorio

CNMI Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio has appealed for the swift passage of S. 2762 and H.R. 5707, the Conrad 30 State Improvement Act. In letters to the U.S. Senate and House Judiciary Committees, Tenorio expressed his support of the bill that will provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities like the CNMI.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has for some time designated the CNMI as a Health Professional Shortage Area, allowing the Department of Public Health to participate in programs designed to assist isolated communities with staffing of primary care physicians and mid-level providers. These include the National Health Service Corps and Loan Repayment Programs. Participation in the Conrad State 30 Program will further allow the CNMI to address its long-standing health care provider shortage by attracting foreign physicians who have completed a U.S. residency training program. Through this program, foreign medical school graduates may work in the CNMI and be granted a J1 visa waiver to continue staying in the U.S. while serving under-represented populations. Normally, the physician must return to his/her own country for at least two years before applying for a permanent visa in the United States. A J-1 Visa Waiver eliminates the two year home residency requirement, allowing the physician to remain and practice in the United States.

In February 2008, S.2672 was introduced which would reauthorize Conrad 30 and the J-1 visa program indefinitely. Physicians on H-1B visas would also be able to participate in the program and be exempted from the H-1B visa cap. The J-1 waiver program will be applied to specialists as well as primary care physicians. The program is named after Senator Kent Conrad of North Dakota who in 1994 created the "Conrad 20" to address the shortage of physicians in medically underserved areas.

"It is no secret that we have always had difficulty recruiting and retaining health care professionals to serve in the CNMI. This program provides an important source of qualified physicians for underserved areas

and its reauthorization will go a long way in assuring that CNMI residents have consistent access to reliable health care providers.

This is a vital medical workforce issue that must be addressed to improve quality medical care in underserved areas like the

CNMI," Tenorio said.

"Previously, the CNMI would not have been able to benefit from such a program. However,

the enactment of the immigration provisions in P.L. 110-229 will ultimately make the CNMI more attractive to U.S. trained

foreign physicians which should help alleviate the staffing needs of our health care system," he added. (PR)

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MAY 23-26, 2008

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Beef Short Ribs Bone-In THCK SLC US CHC \$2.99 /lb.		Chicken Stewing \$1.99 /lb.		 Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 \$2.06
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 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
Win a Barry Wonenberg original

Community support is being solicited to help improve mental health facilities and services at the Commonwealth Health Center Psychiatric Unit. A group effort has been organized by three advocacy organizations in the CNMI. The goal is to raise money to renovate the courtyard access at the Psychiatric Unit as well as improve the atmosphere by making the unit a more homey environment.

The coalition for anti-stigma of mental illness in the CNMI (Cami-CNMI), the Mental Health Planning Council from CHC and NMPASI have joined forces for fund raising activities to erect a pergola and garden in a beautiful space where there is presently no shade.

Two people will win original Barry Wonenberg Ceramic Pieces. Five-dollar raffle tickets are being sold to raise money to improve our CNMI Mental Health Facilities. You need not be present to win. **(PR)**

Memorial Day on Monday

The Office of the Governor, Office of Military/Veterans Affairs and the Memorial Day Committee are reminding the public to come, celebrate and honor the brave men and women who served with unwavering dedication and purpose and paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the world safe, and secure the freedom we enjoy today.

Memorial Day ceremony will be at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 9am. The Pacific Winds Con-

cert Band will begin with the pre-ceremonial music at 8:30am. Key-note speaker will be Rear Admiral William French, Commander Naval Forces Marianas. Everyone is invited.

SSHS: No school on May 30

Saipan Southern High School will have no classes on May 30, 2008, due to preparation for the graduation. Classes will resume on June 4, 2008, this will be the last day of school. **(PR)**

Live fire training on FDM

The Emergency Management Office, Office of the Governor, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on May 21 - 23, 2008.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. **(PR)**

NMC English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test next Wednesday, May 28. The test will be conducted in Room D-1 and will run from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9:00am-4:00pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payments for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733. **(PR)**

OES Cultural Day tomorrow

Oleai Elementary School Will be having its Cultural Day celebration on May 24, 2008. The year is very special as the school will be celebrating its 50th year since it was established.

Raffle tickets are on sale for \$5 a booklet. Support our school and get a chance to win the \$1,500.99 Grand Prize and other cash prizes. Proceeds will go towards the school's ongoing improvement projects.

For more information contact Glenn Muna or Jack Sablan at 664-3942. **(PR)**

S&NISWCD meeting in June

The Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their monthly meeting S&NISWCD meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 1pm at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. For more information contact our office at 234-6180. **(PR)**

MHS Class on 1988 meeting on June 5

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting again on June 5, 2008, 6:30pm at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School.

It was decided on Thursday, May 15, 2008, meeting to extend the dateline for payments to June 5, 2008. Classmates are being encouraged to turn in there payments by then. You can contact our Treasurer Ms. Melissa D. Diaz at 285-2624. **(PR)**

Mount Carmel Theater Club presents first film

Mount Carmel Theatre club invites the public to join them in its first feature-length film Caesar, an adaptation of the classic play "Caesar" by William Shakespeare.

The event will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on Friday, May 30, and Saturday, May 31, beginning 7pm.

Due to exceptionally limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is highly recommended. The value of each ticket is worth \$5.

For more information, you can call 235-1251 or email galvin@itecnmi.com, visit their website at www.mestheatreclub.blogspot.com. **(PR)**

*Message of Appreciation*

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee and the Commonwealth Cancer Association wish to thank the following for their support in making the 2008 MMAC a success.

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Marriage Encounter
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Hinemlo (Department of Public Health)
Northern Marianas College
Grace Christian Academy
Whispering Palms
Hopwood Junior High School

COMMITTEE MEMBERS and ADVISORS:



David Rosario, Overall Chairman
Jack T. Sablan, Vice Chairman
Celia Mercado
Joanne Ogo
Joyce Songsong
Michelle Kramer
John Quitugua
John Tagabuel
Evelyn Sablan
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Jeannie Mafnas
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SPECIAL THANK YOU:

MMAC Volunteers
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Department of Public Safety
American Red Cross, NMI Chapter
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Cherlyn Cabrera
Saipan Southern High School Band
Representative Tina Sablan
Rita Cruz
Austin Rosario
Donavan Diaz
Peter Lucas
Daniel Villagomez, Jr.
John O. Gonzalez
Dr. Divya Sharma
Jackie Echon
ICON Band
Te Kanahau Nui
and to the Cancer Survivors, Terry Iginoef, and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.




**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-DLNR/FW-062

OPENING DATE: JUNE 18, 2008

TIME: 10:00 A.M.



**"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW OUTBOARD
BOAT ENGINE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT SECTION'S JUSTICE
VESSEL FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, D.V.M.
SECRETARY, DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-DPH-068

SUBMISSION: JUNE 13, 2008

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDICAID DATA SYSTEM DESIGN FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CNMI MEDICAID OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF SERVICES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 03, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. AT DR. JOSE VILLAGOMEZ BUILDING/HEMODIALYSIS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

OIA names roster for Island Fellows

The Office of Insular Affairs announced the roster of the sixth Island Fellows Program last May 19 in Washington, D.C. The team is comprised of eight MBA candidates from the Columbia School of Business, the Wharton School in the University of Pennsylvania, the Kellogg School of Management in Northwestern University, the McDonough School of Business in Georgetown University, the Harvard Business School, and the University of Hawaii.

They will begin their 10-week program in Washington, DC on June 11, 2008. Over the past few years, the Island Fellows program has made significant contributions to the Department of the Interior's ongoing efforts to promote private sector-led economic development in the U.S.-affiliated insular areas, conducting field research and outreach in support of large-scale events hosted by the Department of the Interior.

Debbie Wissel, an MBA student at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania has been assigned to the CNMI. She will arrive Saipan on June 18 and stay for approximately two weeks. While in the CNMI, Wissel will be meeting with local businesses and government leaders to identify their priorities for the types of businesses that the CNMI people believe should be invited to the fifth Secretary of the Interior's Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands, to be held in Honolulu April 6-8, 2009. When

Who is Debbie Wissel?

Debbie Wissel, an MBA candidate from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, worked as a manager of business development for an investment research and advisory firm in New York where she implemented enhanced global marketing strategies.

In addition, she developed a long-term marketing campaign for a microfinance organization that provides small business support services. She also led volunteer groups to Nicaragua to engage in community development for a large non-profit organization that helps economically depressed countries. She has also worked on large international conferences with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. She holds a BA in government from Bowdoin College. She played serum-half for Bowdoin Women's Rugby Football club. (OIA)

Wissel returns to Washington, DC, she will begin to market the next Conference actively, and OIA staff will welcome recommendations from business owners in the CNMI for making the next Conference the best one yet.

Wissel will also help OIA introduce a new business tool to be known as "Island Business Link." It is a web-based system to facilitate the matching of island based businesses with businesses anywhere in the world and is based on the model OIA used for the "business-to-business (B2B) meetings" that were held at the last two Conferences. While on-island, Wissel will be conducting workshops for government and business leaders on how the system works. Ideally, the workshops will be followed by one-on-one meetings between the Island Fellow and individuals to answer questions and actually to post some

CNMI business opportunities to the system.

The Island Fellows will return to Washington, D.C., on July 4, and in addition to providing continuing support for the rollout of Island Business Link, they will also work on the development and outreach for the next Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands. The contact person for the Island Fellowship program as well as IslandBusinessLink.com is Angie Williams who may be emailed at angela_williams@ios.doi.gov.

In the CNMI, the contact for these programs is the Secretary of Commerce, James Santos. To meet with the Island Fellow or to make arrangements to attend one of the workshops, call the Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Michael Ada at 664-3003 or email him at depcommerce.ada@gmail.com. (OIA)

AGO opens annual speech competition

Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory announced yesterday the official opening of the 25th annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition.

Every year, the best and brightest high school students from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan compete in this prestigious event in an effort to determine which school has the most persuasive arguments regarding the islands' most pressing issues.

This year will be no differ-

ent, as the competition theme is: "Should the NMI and Guam Unite as "One Marianas" to form the 51st state of the Union?" Each of the 11 contestants will stand before a panel of judges and attempt to convince the judges that the position he or she takes is the most compelling argument.

Last year's winner was Cyd Xyrene Gojar Tribiana from Mount Carmel High School. MHS also won the AG's Cup in

2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2000, 1994, 1989 and 1984. Can MHS defend its title again this year?

The competition will be held at the Fiesta Resort, Hibiscus Hall on May 23, 2008, at 9 o'clock in the morning. Friends, family and guests are welcomed and encouraged to attend, and we invite the public is invited to see the future leaders of the NMI in action. (AGO)

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China Earthquake Relief Donations

On May 12th, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the county of Wenchuan in the Sichuan province of China. The official death toll has reached over 30,000 with over 200,000 injured. The earthquake also left tens of thousands homeless.

The Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI from May 15th to 20th has collected US\$34,000 in China earthquake relief donations. We urge the community to join us to raise the relief fund. Donations may be made to the following collection centers:

1. Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI
2. Canton Restaurant
3. Sun Leader
4. Dollar Days
5. Transamerica
6. Modern Stationery
7. Dolphin Wholesale
8. Guangdong Hardware
9. Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

Donations may be made by check to:

1. Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI
2. The Chinese Consulate General in LA with note "China Earthquake Relief"

Collection of donations ends on May 31, 2008. All donations will be remitted in the first week of June, 2008 to the Chinese Consulate General office in L.A.

Contacts:

Anna Chan 234-3873

Ta Bun Kuy 322-1328

中国地震赈灾捐款 China Earthquake Relief Donations

2008年5月12日四川省汶川县发生7.8级大地震，此次灾难造成数万人遇难，逾20万人受伤。这严重的伤亡事件，使灾区的人民无家可归……

这一切也同样牵动着我们塞班华人华侨的心。让我们迅速行动起来，向灾区人民伸出援助之手，奉献我们的一份爱心，为灾区人民度过难关、重建家园提供一些帮助。

塞班中华总会发起向灾区捐款活动，从5月15日直到5月20日为止，捐款收集共有3万4千多美元，全靠岛上各界热心人士出钱出力。请大家继续加入到我们的行动中来！

捐款地点：

- 1、中华总会
- 2、广东酒楼
- 3、新力达商店
- 4、一元店(Dollar Days)
- 5、TRANSAMERICA
- 6、现代文具店(Modern Stationery)
- 7、DOLPHIN WHOLESALE
- 8、广东建材

如果支票捐款请填写明：

- 1、Chinese Association OF SAIPAN, CNMI (可要求收据)
- 2、The Chinese Consulate General in LA, 支票上请注明 "China earthquake relief"

收集捐款截止日期到5月31日，6月的第一个星期我们将捐款寄送到 **中国驻洛杉矶总领事办事处。**

联系人：

陈慧屏女士 联系电话：234-3873

谢判奇先生 联系电话：322-1328

塞班中华总会

Pacific

Fiji's endangered sago palm faces extinction

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Like the turtles, the Fiji sago palm, is an endangered species and could soon be gone if nothing is done about protecting it, warns Dr Dick Watling, an internationally acknowledged authority on Fiji's environment.

Pointing out that the palm is under bigger threat than even the turtles, Watling has strongly suggested the sustainable use of the palm if it is to survive.

Watling is the principal and founder of Environment Consultants Fiji Ltd, and is presently involved with Mareqeti Viti, in partnership with the Department of the Environment and the National Trust, initiating a project to conserve the Fiji sago palm

Speaking at a seminar organized by the Fiji Architects Association at JJ's on the Park last night, Watling expressed surprise that awareness of sago sustainability was very low in Fiji.

"And it is really quite surprising that sago is hardly recognized by Government as an endangered species! From a biodiversity conservation perspective alone, this (Fiji sago) is a highly significant species and its endangerment is severe."

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Villagers flee rising sea in PNG's Duke of York Isles

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—Elders in the Duke of York Islands in East New Britain have expressed concern over global warming which

is causing most of their islands to disappear slowly. The islands have 21 wards and some, during the past five to 10 years, have been subjected to rise in sea level, forcing the people to be relocated inland. At the Nakukur ward, about 60 families that used to live

near the beach, had packed up and moved inland 2 to 3 years ago. Nakukur elders Judas Kalsiel, 70, Topin Temeren, 62, and Malari Uding, 53, said it was a big worry for them as elders even though today's young generation was not realizing this.

Help on way for victims of 2007 Solomons tsunami

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—South Choiseul in the Solomon Islands has finally commenced sending building materials from Honiara to the victims of the 2 April 2007

earthquake and tsunami. Distribution starts at Tabasaru Village of Sasamunga, South Choiseul. The distribution of these funds and materials become possible after the Government allocated \$1.36 million to the Constituency. MP Rev. Leslie Boseto has authorised the funds to be distributed, administered and managed by Lauru People Association here in Honiara. After several consultations with the affected villagers from Solovae to Loloko village in early February and a follow-up meeting with overseas NGOs in Honiara mid March 2008, South Choiseul is now in a position to distribute these funds in a form of cash and building materials in strict conditions with follow-up monitoring strategies.

actions if the government refuses to listen to their demand. Logging companies are petitioning the government on the likely actions they will take should the government increase the determined price from US\$71 to the proposed new rate of US\$78. The logging companies have stated that the increase of determined price, along with the increase in the minimum wage, have made operations in the country very expensive.

Samoa village overrides court ruling

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The village of Vailoa Palauli on Savai'i, has ignored a court ruling by imposing a ban on land, which the Supreme Court says belongs to the O.F. Nelson Company. Last month, the village council lost a legal battle with O.F. Nelson over its claim for more than four hundred hectares. But the Samoa Observer reports that workers for O.F. Nelson have been warned in a public notice, issued by the chiefs of Vailoa Palauli, not to set foot on the land again. The notice declares that O.F. Nelson has no land in the village. The notice, in Samoan, says this decision was made following a village council meeting last month.

Logging companies in Solomons threaten layoffs

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—There is fear of a mass redundancy exercise, and stockpile of logs, by logging companies currently operating in the country, in protest of the increase in determined price for logs carried out by the government. Sources within the government have stated that certain logging companies have warned the government of likely



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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PERSONAL FINANCE : CIVIL
CENTER, : ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 07-261
-v- :
OSCAR M. MASGA :
and MARIA B. MASGA, :
Defendants, :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 24, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants in and to the following property: Tract No. 22697-2 (formerly part of original tract no. 22697, H-84 A), situated in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2106/87, the original of which was recorded on June 23, 1987, as Document No. 87-2674 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 30, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of May, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MARCELINO DLG. CAMACHO
CECILIA T. CAMACHO
P.O. Box 500813
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone (670) 235-3627

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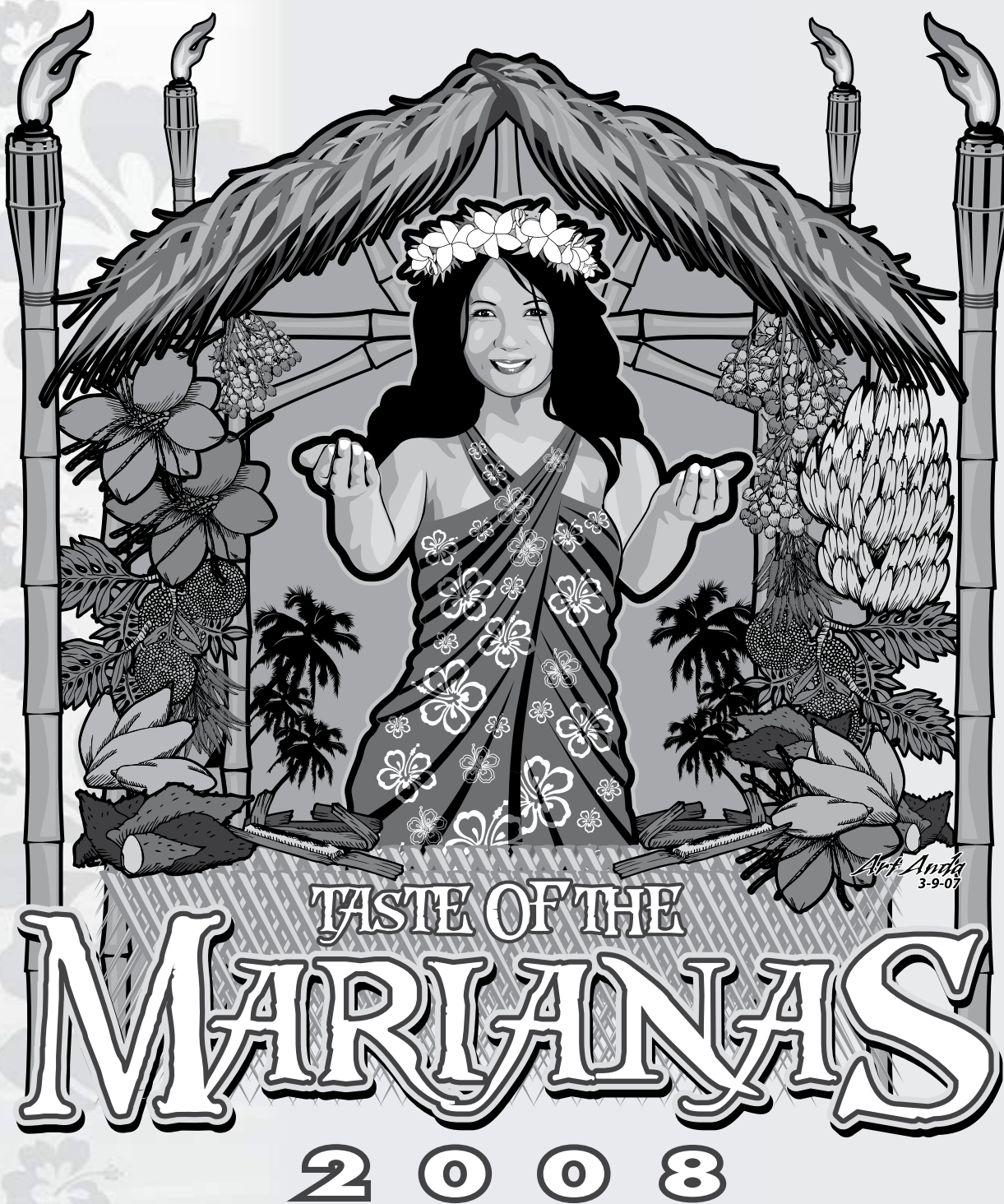
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the) FCD GU
Petition for the) Civil Action
Appointment of) No. 08-0274
Temporary)
Guardianship for:)
GUADALUPE) NOTICE OF
PAULINA) HEARING ON
ADELBAI) PETITION FOR
CAMACHO,) APPOINTMENT
OF)
A. Minor Child,) TEMPORARY
by:) LEGAL
GUARDIANSHIP)
MARCELINO)
DLG. CAMACHO)
and CECILIA T.)
CAMACHO)
Petitioners.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Court shall hear the above-entitled matter on the 2nd day of June, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. for Petitioners Notice of Hearing on Petition for Appointment of Temporary Legal Guardianship. The parties are directed to be present at the hearing at which time the Court shall consider the Petition.

/s/ Clerk of Court
CNMI SUPERIOR COURT



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2008

May 24, 2008 PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Talaabwog Women Stick Dancers
7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Bigger & Better (Guam Band)
8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Chef Competition Awards Presentation
8:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.	Refaluwasch Warriors
9:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Penina Ole Vasa

May 24, 2008 • Chef's Competition
7:30 p.m. Competition Stage

2008 Taste of the Marianas vendors:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Aqua Resort Club, Saipan | 10. D'Elegance Café |
| 2. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan | 11. Herman's Modern Bakery |
| 3. Hafadai Beach Hotel | 12. Hula Girl |
| 4. Hyatt Regency Saipan | 13. Thai House Restaurant |
| 5. Pacific Islands Club Saipan | 14. Poon's Restaurant |
| 6. Palms Resort Saipan | 15. Ty & Tia |
| 7. Saipan World Resort | 16. Pacific Trading Company |
| 8. Mariana Resort & Spa | 17. MARPAC |
| 9. Capricciosa & Tony Roma's | 18. Northern Marianas Bartender Association |

For more information, please contact
MVA Office (Saipan) at 664-3200/01, MVA Office (Tinian) at 433-9365.

"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

TOURISM MONTH ACTIVITIES

SAIPAN

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2008

Taste Of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden - Event will be held every Saturday in May at the American Memorial Park from 6:00pm to 10:00pm.

"Hafa Adai Tirow Way Fridays"

Every Friday, the community is encouraged to wear local attire. The community is encouraged to showcase our unique island culture by wearing mwar mwar or local beads.

May 31, 2008

Tourism Month "Ayuda" Charity Mountain Bike Race

The Ayuda Mountain Bike race will consist of a short course for children 8-12 years of age, short mountain bike race for beginners, and Open Division. Starting point will be at American Memorial Park to Mt. Tapochao and back.

For more information, please contact the MVA office at 664-3200/01 and ask for Ed Diaz.

Radio Trivia Program "Did you know and Fun Facts about Tourism in the CNMI"

Awareness on facts about tourism in the CNMI will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 and 97.9 The KAT. Listeners will have a chance to answer tourism question and will have a chance to win prizes.



Business

Fed: Slower growth, higher unemployment

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve officials strongly suggested they won't be inclined to cut interest rates further even as they sharply downgraded their forecast for economic growth this year, citing damage from a housing slump, credit crunch and galloping energy prices.

Wall Street took a tumble as investors faced the weaker outlook and the possibility that the

Fed's rate-cutting campaign was winding down. The Dow Jones industrials plunged more than 200 points.

In fact, the Fed's decision to lower interest rates at its April 29-30 meeting was a "close call," according to minutes of those private deliberations released Wednesday.

The Fed hopes that its series of powerful rate cuts ordered

since last September and the government's \$168 billion stimulus package of tax rebates for people and tax breaks for businesses will help energize growth somewhat in the second half of this year.

Fed officials viewed economic activity "as likely to be particularly weak in the first half of 2008; some rebound was anticipated in the second half of this

year," the documents stated.

The Fed also forecast higher unemployment and inflation for this year.

Given the hope of a second-half economic pickup but worried about inflation, Fed officials signaled last month that their one-quarter-point rate reduction, which dropped their key rate to 2 percent, might be their last rate cut for some time.

Microsoft lures search traffic with cash rebates program

REDMOND, Wash. (AP)—Microsoft Corp. is offering cash rebates when people make purchases after using its search engine as the software maker begins to reveal how it plans to take on Google Inc. following

the failure of its \$47.5 billion bid for Yahoo.

Under the cash program revealed Wednesday, Web shoppers who sign up for an account and buy items found using Microsoft's Live Search cashback

site will receive a percentage of the purchase price deposited into their account.

When the total reaches \$5, the shoppers can redeem their "cold, hard cash" via eBay Inc.'s PayPal. Microsoft said

the rebates are funded with a portion of the money it collects from advertisers.

So far, more than 700 merchants, including Home Depot and Zappos.com, have listed products on the site.

Stocks tumble on \$134 oil, Fed meeting minutes

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street pitched lower for the second straight session Wednesday as record-high oil prices and a bleak economic assessment from the Federal Reserve deepened investors' worry about rising costs and a shaky employment picture. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 227 points, logging its widest two-day loss since late February.

Early in the day, stocks began falling on the surging price of oil, which shot up more than \$4 and breached \$134 a barrel for the first time on the futures market Wednesday.

The Dow fell 227.49, or 1.77 percent, to 12,601.19, after falling nearly 200 points on Tuesday. The blue chip index's two-day drop of about 427 points, or 3.3 percent, is its biggest since Feb. 28-29.

Broader stock indicators also stumbled. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 22.69, or 1.61 percent, to 1,390.71, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 43.99, or 1.77 percent, to 2,456.09.

In overseas trade, Tokyo's Nikkei closed down 1.65 percent. In Europe, London's FTSE rose 0.10 percent, Frankfurt's DAX declined 1.09 percent and Paris' CAC 40 fell 0.54 percent.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY 09/27 SHOULDER AND NEW GENERATOR, PHASE 2, PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-08.

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 2:00 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of providing paved shoulders for both sides of the existing 6,000 feet of runway, providing new electrical conduits and new edge light, providing new generator and fuel tank and constructing generator room, grading and earthworks, and other related works in accordance with the plans and specifications hereinafter as parts of the Contract Document.

Bidder's attention is called to the Bidder's Qualification Statement, Section LP-4 that a prospective bidder must submit it along with bid proposals. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all Bidders and may reject the bidder based on unsatisfied bidder's qualification based on its best interest.

After receipt of bids the Owner will perform evaluation of the apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder. The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. In the event that the apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder is determined unqualified or unsatisfied to the Owner based on the evaluation, the Owner will perform a secondary evaluation of the qualifications of the next apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder until a qualified lowest bidder is determined.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with Item G-100-3.2 (Contract Time) of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specification. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with Item G-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages) of the General Project Requirements and shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00) for each CD-Rom. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in casher's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications and bid proposal documents available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by an U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

April 30, 2008
Date



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GENERATOR AND POWER UPGRADE
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES
CPA-SA-001-08

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Construction of the Saipan International Airport Generator and Power Upgrade on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the intent of CPA to expedite complete construction of this project.

The scope of work and proposal package will be available on Monday, May 12, 2008 at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, upon the payment of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) for each. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, casher's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

No Pre-Proposal Conference will be held for this project. All questions must be submitted in writing to Mr. Lee C. Cabrera, CPA's Acting Executive Director or faxed to (670) 234-5962, no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 23, 2008.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Generator and Power Upgrade, Design/Build Services, CPA-SA-001-08." One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008, to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The offerer shall submit with their proposal a letter of interest and Project Approach which details how the work will be accomplished by the proposer's team, given the time requirement and resources available as identified in their proposal.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for design and construction	30%
2.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
3.	Experience of the firm on similar type projects	20%
4.	Time frame for completion of the work	20%
5.	Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Award of a contract is contingent upon prior approval from FAA.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by either a proposal bond by an U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax. Proposers should also include in pricing performance and payment bonds that will be required for this project.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

Date: May 8, 2008

Oil prices pass \$134 after report of supply drop



Customers re-fuel their vehicles at a Beverly Hills, Calif. gas station, Wednesday, May 21, 2008. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Runaway oil prices blew past \$130 a barrel for the first time Wednesday and kept going, while gasoline prices persisted in their own relentless climb, rising above \$3.80 a gallon. Supply worries, rising demand and a slumping dollar are conspiring to make filling up the car—and paying for just about everything else—a growing burden for Americans.

With gas and oil prices setting new records on a daily basis, many analysts are beginning to wonder whether anything can stop prices from rising. There are technical signals in the futures market, including price differences between near-term and longer-term contracts, that crude may soon fall. But with demand for oil growing in the developing world, and little end in sight to supply problems in producing countries such as Ni-

geria, few analysts are willing to call an end to crude's rally.

Oil's Wednesday rally was fed in part by a report from the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration, which said crude inventories fell by more than 5 million barrels last week. Analysts had expected a modest increase.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery rose \$4.19 to settle at \$133.17 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, but prices rose as high as \$134.42, up \$5.44, in after-hours electronic trading. It was crude's largest one-day price advance since March 26.

Investors seized on the inventory report to boost prices Wednesday, but traders interested in pushing prices higher are increasingly picking and choosing which news they wish to pay attention to, analysts say.

"Even if this report was bearish, with the momentum the way it is right now, it wouldn't matter," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago.

Crude prices first passed \$130 overnight on concerns about demand and a weaker dollar. Analysts say crude has been boosted in recent days by especially strong demand for diesel in China, where power plants in some areas are running desperately short of coal and certain earthquake-hit regions are relying on diesel generators for power.

The dollar, meanwhile, weakened against the euro Wednesday. Investors see hard commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation and a weak dollar and pour into the crude futures market when the greenback falls. A weak dollar also makes oil less expensive to buyers dealing in other currencies.

Big Oil defends profits before irate senators

WASHINGTON (AP)—On a day oil prices leaped to unheard-of highs, senators lined up Big Oil's biggest executives and pummeled them with complaints that they're pretending to be "hapless victims" while raking in record profits.

"Where is the corporate conscience?" Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., asked the top executives of the five largest U.S. oil companies.

It's all about economics, came the reply. Supply and demand. The company leaders tried to shift attention from motorists' anger over \$4-a-gallon gasoline to a debate over new areas for drilling.

But senators at the Judiciary Committee hearing weren't having any of that. They wanted to press the executives about public anguish over paying \$60 or more to fill up a car's gas tank.

"People we represent are hurting, the companies you represent are profiting," Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., told the executives. He said there's a "disconnect" between legitimate supply issues and the oil and gasoline prices motorists are seeing.

The executives, sitting shoulder to shoulder in the hearing room, said they understood people were hurting, but they tried to blunt the emotion with economic analysis.

Profits have been huge "in absolute terms," conceded J. Stephen Simon, executive vice president of Exxon Mobil Corp., but they "must be viewed in the context of the massive scale of our industry." And high earnings "in the current up cycle" are needed for investments in the long term, including when profits will be down.

"Current up cycle, that's a nice term when people can't afford to go to work" because gasoline is costing so much, replied Leahy with sarcasm.

"The fundamental laws of supply and demand are at work," said John Hofmeister, chairman of Shell Oil Co., ac-

As gas prices rise, so does the cost of small used cars

DETROIT (AP)—The beige 2003 Honda Civic sat on Mike Haile's used car lot in Atlanta for only three days before he sold it for \$8,200. And that was \$300 more than the asking price.

The car, with 62,000 miles on it and equipped with an automatic transmission, sunroof, air conditioning, side airbags and a compact disc player, is a perfect example of what Haile and other auto industry experts say is a consequence of nearly \$4 per gallon gas: A run-up in the price of used small cars.

"These little cars are very hot, like hotcakes, they sell fast," said Haile, who has filled his 15-car lot with smaller vehicles he bought at regional auto auctions in Atlanta and Orlando, Fla.

In the past month, Haile says, the price of used small cars has risen dramatically as gasoline steadily escalated to a record nationwide average of \$3.80 per gallon.

At the auto auctions where dealers get many of their used vehicles, bidding wars are erupting over compacts, he says.

"It's extremely high right now," Haile said. "The small cars are very hard to get right now. The cars that were \$5,000 are now \$7,000."

In the past year, the average used small car price has gone up 2 percent, from \$9,278 to \$9,470, according to wholesale auto auction data collected by the National Automobile Dealers Association. There's evidence that the prices are accelerating, according to recent data from J.D. Power and Associates.

The increases are in contrast to used full-size sport utility vehicles, whose prices have dropped \$1,600 to \$2,000 in the past year, said Paul Taylor, the NADA's chief economist. The average sale price of all used vehicles in the U.S. dropped 2.5 percent in the past year, the NADA reported.

The swings are directly related to gasoline prices. For the past three years, small and midsize used car prices would rise with seasonal oil price increases, then drop when fuel prices moderated, Taylor said. But gas prices haven't dropped and continue to rise this year, which has kept the small-car trend going, Taylor said.

knowledging it is something the oil industry has been saying for some time and that the explanation may sound "repetitive and uninteresting."

Hofmeister was joined by executives of Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., BP America Inc. and ConocoPhillips Co. Together the five companies earned \$36 billion during the first three months of this year.

As the executives sought to explain their profits and why prices are so high, the global oil markets were moving into new, uncharted highs, touching \$133 a barrel for the first time. The national average price of a gal-

lon of gasoline hit \$3.80, with \$4 showing up in more places. Crude prices increased even more in late electronic trading Wednesday hitting \$134 for the first time.

It was the second time this year the executives had been summoned to testify before Congress. When they came in early April oil cost about \$98 a barrel.

This time the exchanges got personal.

Simon was asked what his total compensation was at Exxon, a company that made \$40.6 billion last year. Simon replied it was \$12.5 million.

**Going Once
Going Twice
Sold to...**

**Come join the Fun at
Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market
Livestock Auction**

**Saturday, May 24, 2008 • 10AM
at the Sabalu Farmers Market Grounds,
Civic Center Beach Susupe**

**Live Animals will be sold to the
highest bidder at auction.**

**We invite anyone interested in selling livestock or
farm animals at auction to call Bill Ada at 483-0150
or Cal Reyes at 235-9708 for more information.**

**The list of animals we hope to sell are:
Cattle/Calves • Pigs/Piglets • Goats
Chickens • Pigeons • Ducks • Birds • Rabbits**



**Saturday, May 24, 2008
is Action Day at the
27th Annual Saipan Agricultural Fair**

BE THERE!

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

American Airlines to charge for first checked bag

NEW YORK (AP)—For some time now, cash-strapped airlines have been doing away with once-complimentary perks such as earphones, meals and extra legroom in exit rows. Now the largest U.S. carrier is testing the limits of passengers' willingness to pay for extras, announcing plans to start charging \$15 for what many fliers consider a downright necessity: a single checked bag. American Airlines' move is part of a larger effort by the industry to find new ways to improve revenue in the face of soaring fuel prices and a slumping economy. The airlines anticipated a multibillion-dollar loss this year, even before oil's latest spike above \$130 a barrel Wednesday.

Boston contemplates life after Ted Kennedy

BOSTON (AP)—After the Boston Red Sox's 86-year span without a World Series championship, perhaps the most familiar streak in Massachusetts is the half-century that a Kennedy has represented the state in the U.S. Senate. Now, the news that Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has a cancerous brain tumor is forcing people to contemplate the day when he will no longer be there. JFK served in the Senate from 1953 to 1960. Then Kennedy family friend Benjamin Smith warmed the Senate seat for two years until Ted Kennedy reached the minimum age of 30 specified in the Constitution. His Senate career is now the third-longest in the chamber's history.

Commander: Al-Qaida in Iraq is at its weakest

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AP)—The al-Qaida terror group in Iraq appears to be at its weakest state since it gained an initial foothold in the aftermath of the U.S.-led invasion five years ago, the acting commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East said Wednesday in an Associated Press interview. Army Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey, who assumed interim command of U.S. Central Command on March 28, acknowledged that al-Qaida remains a relentless foe and has not disappeared as a serious threat to stability. But he said an accelerated U.S. and Iraq campaign to pressure al-Qaida has paid big dividends. "Our forces and the Iraqi forces have certainly disrupted al-Qaida, probably to a level that we haven't seen at any time in my experience," said Dempsey, who served in Iraq in the initial stages as a division commander and later as head of the military organization in charge of training Iraqi security forces.

McCain to host possible veeps at Ariz. home

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Memorial Day weekend guest list at Sen. John McCain's Arizona retreat runs to at least three Republicans mentioned as potential vice presidential running mates, but a top aide said Wednesday that vetting possible veeps is not on the agenda. "It's purely social," said Mark Salter, a senior adviser to McCain. Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a McCain rival in the primary, were invited to a weekend gathering at the senator's place in Sedona. They were among the estimated two dozen people—including some 10 couples—invited. McCain often hosts friends and political acquaintances at his compound.

Texas CPS returns to sect ranch; rebuffed at gate

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—Child Protective Services workers returned to the west Texas ranch of a polygamist sect Wednesday in search of children they believe might have arrived since more than 460 others were seized in a raid last month. Guy Jessop, standing guard at the main gate of the ranch run by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, said two CPS workers accompanied by a sheriff's deputy asked whether they could enter the ranch to look for more children. Jessop said he denied them access without a search warrant. FLDS spokesman and attorney Rod Parker said CPS won't be allowed on the ranch without a search warrant.

Groups try to stop circus from chaining elephants

NEW YORK (AP)—A coalition of animal welfare groups says it has evidence that Ringling Bros. circus elephants are sometimes chained for days at a time, and the groups asked a judge Wednesday to halt the practice while a lawsuit comes to trial. In federal court papers filed in Washington, the groups said Ringling Bros.' own train records show that the Asian elephants are chained in box cars for an average of more than 26 straight hours, and often 60 to 70 hours at a time, when the circus travels. In some cases, the elephants have been chained on trains for 90 to 100 hours. The parent company of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has argued that chaining the elephants during transport is necessary and legal.

Calif. quake scientists detail impact of 'Big One'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "Big One," as earthquake scientists imagine it in a detailed, first-of-its-kind script, unzips California's mighty San Andreas Fault north of the Mexican border. In less than two minutes, Los Angeles and its sprawling suburbs are shaking like a bowl of jelly.

The jolt from the 7.8-magnitude temblor lasts for three minutes—15 times longer than the disastrous 1994 Northridge quake.

Water and sewer pipes crack. Power fails. Part of major highways break. Some high-rise steel frame buildings and older concrete and brick structures collapse.

Hospitals are swamped with 50,000 injured as all of Southern California reels from a blow on par with the Sept. 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina: \$200 billion in damage to the economy, and 1,800 dead.

Only about 700 of those people are victims of building collapses. Many others are lost to the 1,600 fires burning across the region—too many for fire-



In this Jan. 17, 1994, file photo, the covered body of Los Angeles motorcycle officer Clarence W. Dean lays near his motorcycle which plunged off Highway 14 overpass that collapsed onto Interstate 5 in the San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles.

fighters to tackle at once.

A team of about 300 scientists, governments, first responders and industries worked for more than a year to create a realistic crisis scenario that can

be used for preparedness, including a statewide drill planned later this year. Published by the U.S. Geological Survey and California Geological Survey, it is to be released Thursday in

Washington, D.C.

Researchers caution that it is not a prediction, but the possibility of a major California quake in the next few decades is very real.

Obama faults McCain; Clinton mulls delegate fight

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Barack Obama criticized likely general election rival John McCain on Wednesday where it could hurt most—the Arizona senator's reputation as a champion of ethics. Hillary Rodham Clinton, meanwhile, raised the possibility she might carry her fight to the Democratic convention floor.

With more superdelegate endorsements after Kentucky and Oregon primaries the night before, Obama was just 64 delegates short of the 2,026 needed to clinch the nomination.

The Illinois senator confidently detoured from the three remaining Democratic primary states—Puerto Rico, Montana, South Dakota—to campaign in Florida, a crucial state in the November election. He also kept his focus on McCain, the Republicans' certain nominee in the fall.

Obama said the Arizona senator has lost faith with his own good-government principles.

Ten years ago, Obama said, McCain proposed barring registered lobbyists from working for candidates' campaigns.

"John McCain then would be pretty disappointed in John McCain now, because he hired some of the biggest lobbyists in Washington to run his campaign," Obama told a crowd of 15,000 at a Tampa arena.

McCain recently instituted a new no-lobbyist policy on his campaign, forcing out some top aides.

"And when he was called on it, his top lobbyist actually had the nerve to say the American people won't care about this," Obama said.

With McCain fundraising in



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at a town hall meeting in Kissimmee, Fla., Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

California, campaign spokesman Tucker Bounds responded: "Despite his own rhetoric, Senator Obama still refuses

to disclose the list of lobbyists advising his campaign. What is Senator Obama hiding?"

"We challenge Senator Obama

to meet our standard" for keeping lobbyists out of the campaign organization, Bounds added.

Clinton, too, was in Florida, pressing to narrow her gap with Obama by having delegates counted from its renegade January primary.

Democratic rule-makers are to meet May 31 to decide whether to count delegates from Florida and Michigan; the states were stripped of their delegates as punishment for holding early primaries in violation of party rules. Clinton won both states, but Obama had his name removed from Michigan's ballot and neither candidate campaigned in those states.

In an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press, Clinton said she is willing to take her fight to seat Florida's and Michigan's delegates to the convention if the two states want to go that far.

Court rules vs military gays policy

SEATTLE (AP)—The military cannot automatically discharge people because they're gay, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday in the case of a decorated flight nurse who sued the Air Force over her dismissal.

The three judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did not strike down the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. But they reinstated Maj. Margaret Witt's lawsuit, saying the Air Force must prove that her dismissal furthered the military's goals of troop readiness and unit cohesion.

The "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue, don't harass" policy prohibits the military from

asking about the sexual orientation of service members but requires discharge of those who acknowledge being gay or engaging in homosexual activity.

Wednesday's ruling led opponents of the policy to declare its days numbered. It is also the first appeals court ruling in the country that evaluated the policy through the lens of a 2003 Supreme Court decision that struck down a Texas ban on sodomy as an unconstitutional intrusion on privacy.

When gay service members have sued over their dismissals, courts historically have accepted the military's argument that having gays in the service

is generally bad for morale and can lead to sexual tension.

But the Supreme Court's opinion in the Texas case changed the legal landscape, the judges said, and requires more scrutiny over whether "don't ask, don't tell" is constitutional as applied in individual cases.

Under Wednesday's ruling, military officials "need to prove that having this particular gay person in the unit really hurts morale, and the only way to improve morale is to discharge this person," said Aaron Caplan, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington state who worked on the case.

Asia

China leaders grapple with political aftershocks

XINHUA, China (AP)—Chinese leaders moved to contain the political aftershocks of last week's deadly earthquake, promising a big rebuilding fund, reining in the recently aggressive media and trying to keep despair from turning to anger in the disaster zone.

Still living under makeshift shelters of scrap wood and nylon tarps on Wednesday—10 days after the quake—70 farmers in the mountain town of Xinhua pressed against the locked gate of the local government compound, demanding tents. Ten soldiers in camouflage guarded the fortress-like compound.

"The government said they would deliver more tents last night. But we never got them. It rained last night and it looks like it will rain again tonight,"

said one farmer in his 50s who only gave his surname, Zhou. His family of five, including his 80-year-old mother, was living in a rickety lean-to.

Although Beijing has mounted an energetic military mobilization in response to a quake that has left an estimated 50,000 dead and 5 million homeless across Sichuan province, the immense challenge means help is not arriving fast enough.

Mindful of the problem and the growing discontent, Premier Wen Jiabao announced a \$10 billion reconstruction fund and ordered all agencies to cut spending by 5 percent to free up already budgeted money, state media reported. Wen also called a halt to new state building projects.

In the sprawling quake zone,

more schools reopened in the fairly orderly and teeming tented refugee camps in some of the larger towns and cities. The government evacuated more of the injured from strapped hospitals on specially outfitted trains staffed by doctors, with 242 patients leaving the city of Jiangyou for the southwestern provincial capital of Kunming.

Only one rescue was reported—that of 35-year-old Cui Changhui trapped for 216 hours in a water diversion tunnel at a hydropower plant construction site. In a further sign of dwindling hopes, rescue work had all but ceased in the obliterated town of Beichuan and workers poured disinfectant over the site, perhaps in preparation, one rescue worker said, for demoli-

tion. For much of the past two days, authorities have kept the media away from Beichuan.

The confirmed death toll from the earthquake rose to 41,353 and another 32,666 remained missing, said a spokesman for the Cabinet.

In the last day of a three-day national mourning period, the communist government was also reverting to well-tested methods to impose its authority.

A message of unity in the face of adversity was prominent in state media and on the streets of the hard-hit city of Shifang. Huge billboards stood in the shopping district in the center of the city, showing pictures of the quake's damage, including collapsed buildings and injured people. A huge slogan read: "Everyone come together with one heart."

156 die after drinking tainted liquor in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Locally brewed liquor apparently tainted with lethal chemicals continued to kill in southern India, with another 66 people dying and bringing the overall death toll from the past five days to 156, police said Wednesday.

Another 135 people were being treated in hospitals in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states, said Sri Kumar, the Karnataka

state police chief.

Bootleggers have been selling the deadly brew as police shut authorized liquor shops in Karnataka state because of voting for the state government, Kumar said.

In India, liquor stores and bars are routinely closed on voting days to prevent politicians from handing out free alcohol in a bid to win votes.

Kumar said 66 deaths were reported overnight and on Wednesday.

Since Saturday, 156 people, mostly poor laborers, have died—88 in and around Bangalore, India's key information technology hub, and 25 in neighboring Kolar district.

Another 43 people died in a village just across the border with Tamil Nadu state, accord-

ing to the Web site of the Karnataka state police.

Police were analyzing the drink to determine what made it so deadly.

Police arrested 1,500 people and seized tainted liquor worth \$1.8 million since elections were announced in Karnataka state last month in a drive to curb its distribution, Kumar said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

8 earthquake pandas going to Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—Eight pandas from a Chinese reserve severely shaken by a deadly earthquake are expected in the capital this week to go on display for the Olympics, a Beijing Zoo spokesman said Wednesday. Some of the pandas are still acting nervous, eating and sleeping less since the quake, officials said, so their keepers will accompany them. The pandas from the Wolong Giant Panda Reserve will arrive Saturday on a special plane and be on display until November, a visit planned long before the May 12 quake in central China. They are expected to draw more than 6 million tourists, the state-run Xinhua News Agency has reported.

Armed men torch 5 buses in RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Armed men claiming to be communist rebels barged into the compound of a bus company in a Manila suburb early Thursday and set five buses on fire, police said. The assailants disarmed guards but told one security officer they had no intention of hurting them and only wanted to punish the company, Victory Liner, radio reports said. Quezon City police chief Senior Superintendent Magtanggol Gatdula said that although the attackers claimed to be communist rebels, they could in fact be disgruntled ex-employees or extortionists. "The firm dismissed many drivers who got involved in accidents," he said.

Pakistan, militants agree to peace deal

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's new government struck a peace deal Wednesday with Islamic militants in a valley of northwestern Pakistan, a breakthrough for a policy that Western officials worry could take the pressure off Taliban and al-Qaida hardliners. The deal covers Swat, a former tourist destination 90 miles from the capital where followers of a fundamentalist cleric have been battling security forces for almost a year. A senior minister in the government of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province said the two sides sealed the 15-point plan on Wednesday during talks in the provincial capital, Peshawar. Militants agreed to recognize the government's authority, halt suicide and bomb attacks and hand over any foreign militants in the area, minister Bashir Bilour told reporters after the talks.

SHELL

FORM AND FUNCTION

AUTO SHOW

LIVE FROM GUAM: BIGGAH & BETTAH

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World

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel engages in indirect peace talks with Syria

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel and Syria unexpectedly announced Wednesday the resumption of peace talks after an eight-year break, saying they have been speaking indirectly through Turkish mediators “in order to achieve the goal of comprehensive peace.” The longtime adversaries each have something to gain from the dialogue. Israel wants to reduce Syrian support for anti-Israel militants in Gaza and Lebanon, while Syria is eager to improve ties with the U.S. and end its international isolation. But many obstacles, including a skeptical Israeli public opposed to ceding the strategic Golan Heights to Syria, a scandal-plagued Israeli prime minister and Syria’s providing a home base for radical militant groups, will make it difficult to reach a deal.

Ruling party ahead in Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Partial results from Georgia’s Central Election Commission point to a big lead for President Mikhail Saakashvili’s party in the ex-Soviet republic’s parliamentary election. The election commission has released results from 88 of some 3,500 polling precincts on its Web site. It says Saakashvili’s United National movement had more than 61 percent in the party-list voting that will fill half the 150 Parliament seats. The main opposition bloc was a distant second with more than 14 percent. The numbers are similar to results of an exit poll that were immediately challenged by the opposition. Saakashvili’s opponents are conducting their own count and allege violations in favor of Saakashvili’s party.

South African troops to help quell violence

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—President Thabo Mbeki gave the go-ahead Wednesday for troops to step in and quell a surge of anti-immigrant violence that has left 42 dead and driven thousands from their homes. It would be the first time troops have been sent into Johannesburg’s townships since the end of apartheid in 1994. Police spokesman Govindsamy Mariemuthoo said 42 people had died and 16,000 had been displaced following about 10 days of unrest, most of it flaring in squatter camps that are home to impoverished South Africans and immigrants from neighboring countries. About 400 arrests have been made, he said. Mbeki approved a police request to have the South African National Defense Force help crack down on the ongoing attacks on foreign nationals in and around Johannesburg, a statement from his office said.

Deal in Lebanon a win for Hezbollah

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Hezbollah secured veto power over Lebanon’s Western-backed government on Wednesday, leaving the militant group virtually free to build up its weapons, including rockets aimed at Israel. But as the political winner, Hezbollah also faces pressure to seek compromise rather than confront opponents, as it had done violently in recent weeks. The deal to end Lebanon’s long stalemate allows a triumphant Hezbollah and its allies back into the government after street fighting reminiscent of the 1975-1990 civil war. Hezbollah patrons Iran and Syria praised the agreement, which seems certain to strengthen Iran’s hand as it vies for influence in Iraq and across the Middle East. Washington also put on a positive spin, despite the new power gained by a group that fought Israel in 2006 and is labeled as terrorist by the United States.

Sadr City calm after Iraqi troop move



Iraqi boys swim in a pond by a house destroyed in recent fighting in the Shiite enclave of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

BAGHDAD (AP)—With not a Shiite fighter in sight, shoppers crowded through markets and cars packed the streets in Baghdad’s Sadr City on Wednesday—a positive early sign for Iraqi forces in their bid to impose control following a truce with the militia in its stronghold.

But while peace held in the sprawling slum a day after thousands of Iraqi troops rolled in, there were indications that militants were increasing their activity elsewhere. Skirmishes broke out in some nearby districts, including a clash that the U.S. military said killed 11 Shiite gunmen.

Support for anti-U.S. Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr is high among Sadr City’s 2.5 million residents, nearly half the population of Baghdad. Many see his Mahdi Army fighters as their protectors against Sunni insurgents and the distrusted American forces.

On Wednesday, however, people seemed relieved by the deployment and the calm it brought after weeks of clashes

between his Mahdi Army fighters and allied U.S. and Iraqi troops on the edges of the district and in its southern sector.

Alaa Jassem, a day laborer, said the Iraqi troops were welcome—“they are our brothers, our sons, our friends”—but said the government “must be sincere in its promises and deliver aid to the city.”

The Iraqi government has said that as part of the deployment, it will direct funds for reconstruction in Sadr City, which is plagued by poor sewage systems that often overflow, drinking water shortages and poor garbage collection.

Success in Sadr City would be a major boost to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whose government is seeking to show it can extend its authority over parts of the country long under the control of armed groups.

Much depends on the durability of a truce reached last week between the government and the Mahdi Army. None of the

black-garbed fighters was seen on the streets Wednesday, and Sadrist Movement officials say they will stick by the cease-fire. But some have already complained about the unexpected size of the deployment, saying it could provoke the fighters, who still have their weapons.

Ten thousand Iraqi soldiers and police, backed with tanks, moved into Sadr City early Tuesday in the biggest government effort yet to impose control in the bastion of the Mahdi Army.

On Wednesday, Iraqi forces sought to solidify their hold on the district. The troops assumed a high profile in the streets but appeared to be working delicately to avoid provocations.

Soldiers set up more positions and patrols on the main avenues, sometimes stopping their vehicles to establish a temporary checkpoint—but searches of passers-by were rare. One checkpoint stood near the main office the Sadrist Movement, and a tank was positioned in a nearby square.

Report says terrorism stats are skewed by Iraq attacks

NEW YORK (AP)—Reports of an increase in terrorist violence around the world have been distorted by the high number of civilian casualties in Iraq, and omitting those deaths reveals a decline in terrorism, a research group argued in a new report Wednesday.

The Human Security Brief 2007 said that without the figures from Iraq, fatalities from terrorism have declined by some 40 percent since 2001.

Disputing claims that terrorist activity is on the rise, project director Andrew Mack said that “when we look a little bit more closely at this data, the incidence of terrorism is declining.”

The study by the Human Security Report Project, a Canada-based research group, analyzed and compared data from three major U.S. government-funded terrorism research institutions.

It carried data showing that global terrorism fatalities between 1998 and 2006 peaked in 2001 with the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, declined until the 2003 American-led invasion of Iraq, and then rose steadily over the next three years.

Using the same data to chart casualties while omitting Iraq, the study shows a sharp decline after the peak in 2001 and then holding relatively steady.

“Absent Iraq, there has been no major increase in fatalities from terrorism since 2001,” the study says.

Dinosaur tracks found on Arabian Peninsula

ATHENS, Ohio (AP)—Scientists say they have found dinosaur tracks on the Arabian Peninsula, a discovery they say may shed more light on where dinosaurs lived, their migration patterns and how they evolved the way they did.

The discovery of tracks of a large ornithomimid dinosaur and a herd of 11 sauropods walking along a coastal mudflat in Yemen was reported in Wednesday’s issue of the journal PLoS ONE.

“No dinosaur trackways had been found in this area previously. It’s really a blank spot on the map,” said Anne Schulp of the Maastricht Museum of Natural History in The Netherlands.

Only a few dinosaur fossils have been reported on the peninsula, including isolated bones from Oman and possible fragments of a long-necked dinosaur from Yemen, Schulp said.

Schulp conducted the study with Ohio University paleontologist Nancy Stevens and Mohammed Al-Wosabi of Sana’a University in Yemen.



Preserved in rocks at the site are the footprints of 11 small and large sauropods—long-necked, herbivorous dinosaurs that lived in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods—traveling together at the same speed.

A Yemeni journalist spotted one of the trackways in 2003. Stevens, Al-Wosabi and Schulp identified it as the footprint of an ornithomimid, a large, common plant-eater that walked on its hind legs.

“It’s an exciting find largely because it comes from a part of the world that is poorly known in terms of its vertebrate Mesozoic record,” said Peter Makovicky, associate curator of dinosaurs at The Field Museum in Chicago. “This is part of the world with little body fossil record.”

This undated photo released by Ohio University paleontologist Nancy Stevens shows an ornithomimid dinosaur trackway.

2 arrested in bomb scare at Swedish nuclear plant

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Swedish police arrested two maintenance workers on suspicion of plotting sabotage after they tried to enter a nuclear power plant Wednesday with traces of a powerful explosive like that used in the 2005 London transit bombings, officials said.

The plant’s operator, OKG, said no bomb was found and the incident did not pose a threat to the Oskarshamn generating station, which provides 10 percent of Sweden’s electricity.

Experts said a bagful of the suspected explosive would not be powerful enough to damage a nuclear reactor but could wreak havoc in a power plant’s control room.

Police with bomb-sniffing

dogs searched the plant 150 miles south of Stockholm and were examining a substance detected on a plastic bag carried by one of the workers. It was believed to be triacetone triperoxide, or TATP, which is extremely dangerous even in tiny amounts.

“It’s not something you use at home,” Anders Osterberg, a spokesman for plant operator OKG, told The Associated Press. “We’re not dealing with toys here.”

The two men were contractors hired to do maintenance work on one of the facility’s three reactors, which was shut down May 11 for an annual check, plant spokesman Roger Bergman said.

Off the Wall

Lost parrot tells veterinarian his address

TOKYO (AP)—When Yosuke the parrot flew out of his cage and got lost, he did exactly what he had been taught—recite his name and address to a stranger willing to help.

Police rescued the African grey parrot two weeks ago from a neighbor's roof in the city of Nagareyama, near Tokyo. After spending a night at the station, he was transferred to a nearby veterinary hospital while police searched for clues, local policeman Shinjiro Uemura said.

He kept mum with the cops, but began chatting after a few days with the vet.

"I'm Mr. Yosuke Nakamura," the bird told the veterinarian, according to Uemura. The parrot also provided his full home address, down to the street number, and even entertained the hospital staff by singing songs.

"We checked the address, and what do you know, a Nakamura family really lived there. So we told them we've found Yosuke," Uemura said.

The Nakamura family told



Yosuke the parrot rests in his cage at his home in Nagareyama in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, Wednesday, May 21, 2008 after he went missing for two weeks. AP

police they had been teaching the bird its name and address for about two years.

But Yosuke apparently wasn't keen on opening up to police officials.

"I tried to be friendly and talked to him, but he completely ignored me," Uemura said.

Romp in the woods ends in charges for two

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A pilot's nighttime romp in the woods with a flight attendant has ended with both suspended and under arrest, police said.

Jeffrey Paul Bradford, 24, and Adrianna Grace Connor, 24, both employees of Pinnacle Airlines Inc., were at a diner on Sunday night before they apparently decided to take a walk, police said.

"They told the officer they wanted to go do it in the woods, essentially," said Lower Swatara

Township Police Sgt. Richard Brandt. "That's the best answer they had."

Things went awry when people who live in the neighborhood summoned police around 9:30 p.m., saying they had seen a naked man and an intoxicated woman.

A helicopter with heat-seeking equipment was called in, and Bradford was discovered hiding behind a shed shortly before midnight.

His only attire was a pair of

flip-flops and a wristwatch.

Bradford, of Pittsburgh, was charged with indecent exposure, public drunkenness and other offenses. Connor, of Belleville, Mich., was charged with theft, public drunkenness and other offenses; police said she took a flashlight from a neighbor's vehicle.

The office of District Justice Michael John Smith, where Bradford and Connor were arraigned, said they were not represented by lawyers. Tele-

phone listings for them could not be located by The Associated Press.

A spokesman for Pinnacle Airlines said the two were suspended while the company investigates.

Great-great-grandmother, 96, does laps at Indy

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A 96-year-old great-great-grandmother says it was "fun" going around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway at 180 mph. "Oh, that was fun!" Edith Pittenger of Muncie said recently after taking a trip around the famous track in a two-seater Dallara with driver Arie Luyendyk Jr.

The ride from the Indy Racing Experience was a Christmas gift from Pittenger's children. Pittenger, who is retired from Ball State University as assistant director of personnel services, began attending the Indianapolis 500 in 1965.

"I like the excitement, the speed, the noise," she said. "I'm one of the few that like the noise."

After trading her black slacks and checkered-flag blouse for a red-and-white driver's suit and black racing shoes, Pittenger was helped into the second seat of the 650-horsepower race car.

Her family broke out into cheers as the car completed a warm-up lap. "She's been talking about this. She said, 'I don't want them slowing down because I'm 96,'" said Pittenger's daughter, Janet Cates.

Dad wrestles with deer after it crashes into salon

QUAKERTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A disoriented deer smashed his way into a suburban hair salon, and a customer wrestled with the animal to keep it from ramming into his 11-year-old son or other youngsters.

"I'm a father. I wasn't going to let anything happen to those kids," Randy Goepfert said after Tuesday's confrontation.

Three hairdressers and several parents and children were in the Holiday Hair salon at a strip mall in this Philadelphia suburb when the white-tail buck crashed through the glass door.

Goepfert was paying for his son Tyler's haircut.

The deer "was charging right at my son, so I decked him," Goepfert said. He grabbed the buck by the neck and slammed it to the floor, then climbed on top and began choking it, hoping to keep the animal at bay until authorities arrived.

But the deer broke loose. Goepfert finally chased it into a back room and barricaded the door with chairs.

Police and a state Game Commission officer later tranquilized the deer, but it had a broken jaw

and cuts on its neck and had to be euthanized, officials said.

Glen Campbell, a wildlife conservation officer, said the deer was likely frightened and disoriented.

"They have a very, very primal flight response," Campbell said. "If they get scared, they don't think, they just try to get away."

Goepfert recalled that the deer kicked him several times and broke loose as they wrestled on the floor. "I weigh 225 pounds and he threw me right off," he said.

Philippine police officers told to smile, or else

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police officers were instructed Wednesday to smile in public or face suspension in an attempt to spruce up their image as rough and rude.

The new guidelines were announced after one of the country's bloodiest weeks in crime. Ten people were lined up and shot dead in a bank robbery last week, and on Monday, a

man went on a killing spree in a farming town that left eight residents dead.

"We are encouraging policemen to be community friendly," police Director Leopoldo Bataoil said. "There is no place for rough and brusque officers in this organization."

He said police were responding to public complaints over officers' behavior at road

checkpoints.

"Good morning. Good afternoon. Good evening. Sorry for the inconvenience. Thank you so much. Sir/Ma'am ... these are words of courtesy which the public wants to hear from us," Bataoil said.

He said officers who fail to follow the guidelines will be charged administratively and face suspension

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Mexican donkey freed from jail after assault

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico (AP)—A Mexican donkey has been freed from jail after doing time for assault and battery. The Televisa network on Wednesday showed "Blacky" gobbling food from a bucket after spending three days in a jail that normally holds people for public drunkenness and other disturbances. Blacky was jailed for biting and kicking two men near a ranch outside Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of Chiapas state. Officials freed the donkey after its owner paid a fine of \$36 and the \$115 hospital bill of the men, who suffered bites to the chest and a broken ankle. Authorities say he also must pay \$480 to each man for missed work days.

Kids picking up trash discover hand grenade

HUDSON, Wis. (AP)—Three children picking up trash along a river in Hudson for community service work found much more than garbage. Charlie Thompson, 11, Maddie Roth, 10, and Demetri Roth, 8, came across a hand grenade, picked it up and headed home to show off their discovery. On their way back Monday, they ran into a neighbor, who immediately called 911. Hudson police cordoned off the block, then determined the grenade wasn't a danger, even though it still had the firing pin inserted. Sgt. Eric Atkinson says the grenade was rusted and contained no powder. Thompson's mother, Heidi Hansen, says the children wanted to keep the grenade for a souvenir, but police are holding it. Hansen says the kids plan to write a story about their adventure.

High gas prices drive farmer to switch to mules

MCMINNVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—High gas prices have driven a Warren County farmer and his sons to hitch a tractor rake to a pair of mules to gather hay from their fields. T.R. Raymond bought Dolly and Molly at the Dixon mule sale last year. Son Danny Raymond trained them and also modified the tractor rake so the mules could pull it. T.R. Raymond says the mules are slower than a petroleum-powered tractor, but there are benefits. "This fuel's so high, you can't afford it," he said. "We can feed these mules cheaper than we can buy fuel. That's the truth." And Danny Raymond says he just likes using the mules around the farm. "We've been using them quite a bit," he said. Brother Robert Raymond added, "It's the way of the future."

Pilots run out of fuel, pray, land near Jesus sign

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — It seemed like an almost literal answer to their prayers. When two New Zealand pilots ran out of fuel in a microlight airplane they offered prayers and were able to make an emergency landing in a field - coming to rest right next to a sign reading, "Jesus is Lord." Grant Stubbs and Owen Wilson, both from the town of Blenheim on the country's South Island, were flying up the sloping valley of Pelorus Sound when the engine spluttered, coughed and died. "My friend and I are both Christians so our immediate reaction in a life-threatening situation was to ask for God's help," Stubbs told The Associated Press on Wednesday. He said he prayed during the ill-fated flight Sunday that the tiny craft would get over the top of a ridge and that they would find a landing site that was not too steep - or in the nearby sea. Wilson said that the pair would have been in deep trouble if the fuel had run out five minutes earlier. "If it had to run out, that was the place to be," he said. "There was an instantaneous answer to prayer as we crossed the ridge and there was an airfield - I didn't know it existed till then." After Wilson glided the powerless craft to a landing on the grassy strip, the pair noticed they were beside a 20-foot-tall sign that read, "Jesus is Lord - The Bible." "When we saw that, we started laughing," Stubbs said. Nearby residents provided them with gas to fly the home-built plane back to base.

Man accused of repeatedly calling 911 for cab

WACO, Texas (AP)—A man accused of calling 911 15 times in a row because he was tired of waiting for a cab was arrested early Tuesday, police said. Each time Kevin Lewis Waits called, the emergency dispatcher told the man he had to call a taxi service and that police could not help him, said Waco police officer Steve Anderson. Police eventually went to the apartment complex and found a cab waiting for Waits, who was also there but did not have the \$26 taxi fee, Anderson said. Waits, 25, was trying to get to a house in town, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported in its Tuesday online edition. Waits, of nearby Hillsboro, was arrested after being taken to the hospital because he told an officer that he had used methamphetamine, Anderson said. Waits remained in custody Tuesday afternoon awaiting bond on charges of harassment and theft of service, according to the McLennan County Jail.

Science & Technology

Facebook preparing for redesign to clear clutter

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP)—Having nearly tripled its audience and added about 20,000 new applications over the past year, Facebook Inc.'s popular online hangout is about to undergo a housecleaning.

Visitors who can't stand the clutter that's been piling up will be glad to see that the site's new look sweeps disparate bits of information into categories marked by tabs at the top of each user's customized home page.

Basic personal background and interests will be filed under an "info" tab, for instance, while news about users' buddies' latest activities will land under a "feed" tab, pictures will be corralled in a "photo" section and applications will be easily located under a "programs" tab. That content is now scattered, creating a confusing mishmash that has frustrated some Facebook users.

The facelift, in the works since January, is to debut in June.

Besides tidying the site, the overhaul should give users more control over their profiles, Facebook managers said Wednesday as they previewed the redesign at the startup's Palo Alto headquarters. Users will be able to magnify information they want to emphasize and downplay other features, for example.

Even so, many users are likely to protest, said Mark Slee, the Facebook product manager overseeing the facelift.

"Change is difficult for our users, even positive changes," Slee said. "But we are pretty confident that we can walk everyone through this so they will be engaged with the changes and enjoy them."

Facebook has had to quell two user rebellions since Mark Zuckerberg started the site a little over four years ago while he was still an undergraduate at Harvard University.

In 2006, users railed against



Holly Ann Calloway

Feed Info Photos Applications

Basic Information

Sex: Female
Relationship Status: In a Relationship
Interested In: Men
Birthday: February 15, 1980
Political Views: Moderate
Religious Views: Christian

Personal Information

Activities: TNT, cooking class (currently I can't bake a normal cookie, so I can only improve from there!), planning my next travel adventure, forcing my friends to hang out outdoors, not sleeping enough, trying to get better at snowboarding, going with the flow

Interests: pancakes, concerts, hanging out with my family and friends, snowdays, my new job, working out, watching sports, girly things, learning new instruments, oh, and did I mention pancakes? :)

Favorite Music: sara bareilles, john mayer, beyonce, dave matthews, jack johnson, the expendables, the shins, bach, beethoven, tchaikovsky, smetana, schubert, tainted love, josh fix, gavin degraw

Favorite TV Shows: ANTM, gossip girl, amazing race, friday night lights, the daily show, american idol, greys anatomy, leave it to beaver, 90210, saved by the bell

Favorite Movies: juno, love actually, before sunrise, breakfast at tiffany's, fight club, notting hill, varsity blues, remember the titans, wedding crashers, titanic

Favorite Books: lucky jim, anything by david sedaris, the kite runner, snowfall at willow lake, the audacity of hope

Favorite Quotes: A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song. —Maya Angelou

Never take life too seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. —one of my students

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. —another student

Smile, it enhances your face value.

About Me: Call me Miss Calloway, Room 2A. I'm a new kindergarten teacher who is loving (most) every minute of her job!

Friends

8 friends. See All

Ellis Bell, Pip Havisham, Jessica Lambert, Eliza Bennet, Dewey McAlister, Dylan Sole

Networks with the most friends

Jersey Shore, NJ (6)

Show All Networks | View All Friends

This image provided by Facebook shows the social networking site's new look, Wednesday, May 21, 2008. Facebook is about to undergo a housecleaning that's supposed to make the site more appealing to visitors who can't stand all the clutter.

a feature called "news feed" as too intrusive because it shared too much information about their activities. The backlash caused Zuckerberg to apologize and tweak the application to give users more control over how the information was shared. The news feed is now a Facebook staple.

Zuckerberg, 24, apologized again late last year after a track-

ing tool called "Beacon" caught users off guard by broadcasting information about their shopping habits and personal preferences expressed by their activity at other Web sites. Facebook decided to allow users to turn off Beacon, diminishing its reach and possible value to advertisers.

Despite those hiccups, Facebook has emerged as Silicon Valley's hottest startup since In-

ternet search leader Google Inc., which recently has been losing some of its prized employees to Facebook. Ben Ling, a former top engineer at Google, is part of the team working on Facebook's overhaul.

Microsoft Corp. put its stamp of approval on Facebook late last year by paying \$240 million for a 1.6 percent stake in the startup—a deal that implied a

\$15 billion value for Facebook.

Since dropping a \$47.5 billion offer to buy Yahoo Inc., Microsoft reportedly has been mulling a bid for Facebook, although Zuckerberg has repeatedly indicated he wants to preserve the privately held company's independence.

Facebook turned into a potential gold mine as it extended beyond its initial goal of allowing college students swap information about each other. The site now has 70 million users worldwide, up from about 24 million a year ago.

Zuckerberg's decision to open Facebook to outside applications last year has played a key role in Facebook's rapid growth. Since then, developers have contributed 20,000 applications that make it easier to distribute photos, share music and play games.

But all those programs were starting to make Facebook look jumbled—a problem that also has plagued the Internet's largest social network, News Corp.'s Myspace.com.

Facebook is trying to address the situation without alienating the outside developers who helped fuel the site's success. That's taken on added importance since Google launched a network last year to help developers create applications to run on multiple Web sites.

After spending months addressing their concerns, Facebook plans to open a "sandbox" where programmers can experiment with how things will work at the redesigned Facebook.

"There may be some short-term pain, but I think there will be more long-term gains," predicted Ling, who is Facebook's director of platform product marketing.

CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY TIPS

By **ROB PEGORARO**

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Microsoft Word is famous — and infamous — for its complexity, but it's also one of the most customizable programs on any computer. By changing its menu layout and keyboard shortcuts, you can streamline many routine tasks and get rid of options that you don't need.

In Word 2007 for Windows, click on the Office Button in the top-left corner and click the Word Options button, then click the "Customize" heading in the options window. In earlier versions of Word, go to the Tools menu and click "Customize." You can then redesign toolbars and reassign keyboard shortcuts at will.

For example, I usually hide the menu items for mail-merge functions, which I never use, and add a keyboard shortcut (Ctrl-Shift-V) for the "Paste Special" command that removes formatting from text that I'm adding to a document.

■ ■ ■

If I had a dollar for every time I got asked about this, I could probably buy a new iPod or two with the proceeds. So, as a reminder: Should you lose the music on your computer due to a hard drive crash, theft or other calamity, you can copy those files back from your iPod to a computer using free or nearly-free utilities. On a Mac, try the free Senuti or on Windows, try the \$20-ish shareware Music Rescue. I have had good results with each in multiple tests.

When you're done, remember to back up your music files from now on, so you don't need to scrounge around for special programs to save your songs after the next computing mishap.

■ ■ ■

Back when everybody used dial-up Internet access, your choice of Internet provider had nothing to do with your TV options. Now, however, one affects the other. For example, satellite TV usually costs less than cable TV — but if you can't get a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) connection for your Internet access, cable-modem Internet service will cost much more when purchased without an accompanying cable-TV subscription.

Conversely, telecom providers that offer voice, Internet and TV service (such as cable operators Comcast and Cox, or Verizon's Fios fiber-optic system) will offer discounts if you get all three services from them. Once you've found a mix of telecom providers that works, remember to survey your options again every year. And, if your bill goes up, let the company responsible know that you're not happy: Many readers have told me that they've gotten a break from their cable company after they griped about its latest rate hike.

NEW YORK (AP)—Picture it as a tilted signpost with each sign a softly glowing panel or as a metal tree with phosphorescent leaves lighting up your desk.

This offbeat table lamp uses organic light-emitting diodes, or OLEDs, a new technology that is being hailed as the future both of TVs and of lighting. German designer Ingo Maurer and his lighting company this week showed the first OLED lamp you can buy, at his studio in Manhattan.

The "can buy" part is qualified, of course. Maurer hasn't disclosed price of the 25 limited-edition copies of the lamp, but it will probably be in the "if you have to ask, you can't afford it" category.

Called "Early Future," the lamp uses 10 OLED panels from Osram Opto Semiconductors, a subsidiary of German industrial company Siemens AG. Each panel measures about six inches by two inches by about one-eighth inch thick. One side has a thin layer of organic compounds, which glow when current is applied.



Lighting designer Ingo Maurer is seen reflected in a OSRAM Opto Semiconductors OLED panel used in his table lamp "Early Future" Wednesday, May 21, 2008 in New York.

"It's so thin, so delicate, but you can do a lot of different things with it," said Bernhard Dessecker, who works for Maurer. They're particularly interested in transparent OLEDs that Osram has said it can make, which could mean lights can be built into windows and turn them into light sources when night falls.

Maurer also made a one-off OLED fixture with nearly 100 panels suspended from the ceiling in an undulating mesh.

Several things have to be improved in OLEDs before they can become mainstream products, however. Osram's panels are only just bright enough for a table lamp, and they last only 2,000 hours before dimming to half their brightness.

But the field is advancing rapidly, especially on the display side. Sony Corp. recently started selling the first OLED TV for \$2,500. Its 11-inch screen is capable of producing a white light, less bright than the lamp, for about 5,000 hours, according to research firm DisplaySearch, which tested the longevity.

Island Snapshots



SENATE CONFIRMATION
Newly appointed Department of Public Works Secretary Diego B. Songsong pose with members of the Senate shortly after his confirmation hearing at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill Thursday.



Newly appointed Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors Rota representative Jesse B. Manglona pose with members of the Senate shortly after his confirmation hearing at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill Thursday.



TARGET PRACTICE
Department of Public Safety police officers and a civilian shoot with their handguns during the Shooting Range Open House at the San Juan Shooting Range in As Matuis yesterday. The activity was part of the Department of Public Safety's 2008 CNMI Police Week.



Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde K. Norita tries the long-range rifle during the Shooting Range Open House at the San Juan Shooting Range in As Matuis yesterday. The activity was part of the Department of Public Safety's 2008 CNMI Police Week.



NATIONAL PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY
Department of Public Safety police officers offer a salute during the 2008 National Peace Officer Memorial Day celebration at the DPS central office in Susupe Thursday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety police officers prepare for the 21-gun salute during the 2008 National Peace Officer Memorial Day celebration at the DPS central office in Susupe Thursday afternoon.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
Happy birthday greetings go out to Magie Janier, who is celebrating her birthday today, May 23. "We love you Mommy." Greetings come from Jovi and kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MES LANCHEROS
Members of the man'amko pose with the fruits and vegetables donated by the Saipan Agriculture Fair Association to the Aging Center in Garapan Wednesday. The donors were Mr. and Mrs. Jun Avila, Mr. and Mrs. Amando Santos, Pedro San Nicolas, Ike Concepcion, Jesus M. Castro, Santiago Tudela, Greg Calvo, Bill Ada, Patrick Calvo, Cheryl Baka, Edward Deleon Guerrero, Ben S. Borja and Crispin Guerrero.



NEW FEDEX DROP-OFF OFFICE
The owner of the newly renovated Marianas Business Plaza, Erick Van Der Maas, CNMI Philippine consul general Wilfredo DL. Maximo, Island Best Choice operations manager Eden Guillo, CTSI Logistics Saipan general manager Rene S. Magalong, and Horizon Lines manager Joven Cruz gather for a photo during the official opening of the island's fourth FedEx drop-off at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe Tuesday.



DRAINAGE PROJECT
Construction workers are seen working on the drainage improvement project in Kannat Tabla Tuesday.

Life & Style

Harmsen tops hotdog eating contest at Taste

By JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
jacqueline_hernandez@saipantribune.com
PHOTOJOURNALIST

In an eating showdown that combined courage and indigestion, Steven Harmsen emerged last Saturday as the 2008 Taste of the Marianas hot dog eating champion, knocking out 2007 winner Rob Epley.

Hundreds of thrilled spectators were crammed in front of the stage near the American Memorial Park Bell Tower to watch the competition.

Twenty-three competitors consisting of men, women, children and tourists appeared to be on adrenaline rush until Harmsen jumped to an early lead in the competition, sometimes jamming franks into his mouth with two hands as the crowd roared.

He won by being the first to finish off all four hot dogs and buns; Epley came close after a few minutes.

Michaelangelo Aveina also showed off his eating skills by finishing third.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Taste of the Marianas hot dog eating competition participants gobble up the four hotdogs given during the event at the American Memorial Park Saturday night.

Harmsen, the new Saipan eating machine, went home 100\$ richer while Epley received \$75 and Aveina got \$50.

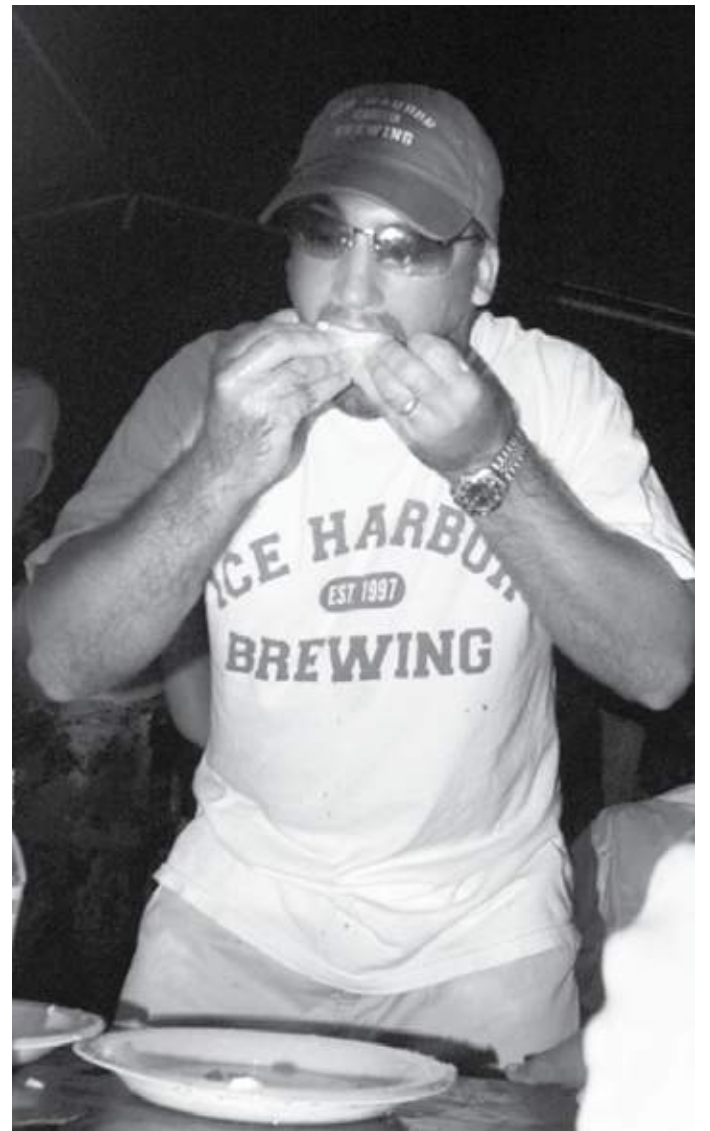
The sponsors for the event were Marianas Visitors Authority, Triple J Wholesale, and Her-

man's Modern Bakery.

The much-awaited 2008 Annual Chefs Competition will be held tomorrow at 7:30pm at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden.

Another set of performers

will take center stage at the American Memorial Park from 6pm to 10pm, including The Talaabwog Women Stick Dancers, Guam's Bigger & Better band, Refaluwash Warriors and the Penina Ole Vasa.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Taste of the Marianas hot dog eating competition champion Steven Harmsen gobbles up the last piece of his hotdog and bun during the contest at the American Memorial Park Saturday night.



A tribute to a long time farmer

MANUEL ADA MANGLONA
86 years of age
50-plus years of farming

Manuel Ada Manglona has been farming for more than 50 years of his life. He is devoted to a cultural practice (farming) taught by his parents at an early age. Manglona's first experience in farming was on Tinian and then he moved to Saipan where he continued to farm until he retired in 2007.

While on Tinian, he was involved in the pro-

duction of several agricultural products such as cucumber, watermelon, tomatoes, bell peppers, etc., for export to the military base in Guam. He was also a consultant to other farmers while farming on Tinian, and also worked closely with the District Agriculture in promoting these practices.

He is sad to say that in this generation, there are only a handful of locals who actually practice these valuable cultural and traditional practices. As of this time, he is still sharing his lifetime experiences and knowledge in the field of agriculture.

Our hat goes off to this particular gentleman and for others who have passed on their knowledge and experience in hopes of maintaining and carrying on this practice...farming. (PR)

Counterclockwise from left, Manuel Ada Manglona, Isidoro T. Cabrera, Martin A. Manglona, Vicente S. Borja, and director Donald G. Flores.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

...and a tribute to a long time rancher

DR. JOSE LUJAN CHONG
83 years of age
50-plus years of ranching

Dr. Jose Lujan Chong has been ranching for more than 50 years. His experiences gained as a part-time rancher made him capable of coping with his full-time medical profession. His intent in ranching was not for commercial purposes but as a stress reliever, which turned out to be of great help in assisting his family's and friends' needs when time arises, such as wedding, funerals and other cultural activities.

Dr. Chong started out with a few cattle and at one time he was able to obtain a herd of 250. Because of development on Saipan, his pasture moved around from China Town to Lower Navy

Hill, Kagman, Marpi, Obyan and eventually back to Marpi.

Due to the limitation of land for grazing, Dr. Chong urges island ranchers to practice better grazing management and to acknowledge the limited resources. He recommends that these practices be recognized for its values not only for meat and money but also as leisure and for a healthy way of living.

Our hats go off to Dr. Chong as a medical doctor who has assisted us with our ailing needs and for also the assistance he has provided to his friends and relatives. (PR)

Vicente Borja, left, and Dr. Jose Chong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



David Cook rocks—and wins—the ‘Idol’ vote

BY LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For an “American Idol” season so flat and lifeless, the end sure rocked: Ex-bartender David Cook virtually body-slammed teen prodigy David Archuleta in a surprising landslide Wednesday night, capping an energized finale filled with big stars and polished performances.

All that, and the imperious Simon Cowell was reduced to apologizing to Cook for casting him as an also-ran to Archuleta the night before.

Turns out Cowell’s critique of Tuesday’s performances had limited influence: Cook, 25, from Blue Springs, Mo., swamped Archuleta, 17, of

that those choices had sunk him, and told Archuleta that he’d scored a “knockout” in the boxing-themed performance finale.

But just before the winner was announced, Cowell uncharacteristically backtracked. He offered Cook an apology and said that the competition “wasn’t quite so clear cut as we called it” - even letting on that, for the first time, he felt either finalist would have been a worthy winner.

Watchers had complained all season that, while the talent was solid this year, the entertainment quotient dropped - and ratings had too, for a season average of about 8 percent. But the final contest turned that tide, with viewership for Tuesday’s show up 3 percent over last year, the

last year’s winner Jordin Sparks by mere days.

The teenager seemed to find the attention the show brought him overwhelming, often appearing to be speechless in the face of praise, but he was consistently professional onstage, with dulcet tones and poise that belied his shyness and tender age. He also became the focus of controversy when his father, Jeff, was reportedly getting too heavily involved in his son’s rehearsals and asked by the show’s producers to back off.

Archuleta made the most of his smooth voice Tuesday with Elton John’s “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me,” the inspirational ballad “In This Moment” and a reprise from earlier in the season of John Lennon’s “Imagine.” After learning Wednesday that he’d lost, Archuleta appeared cheerful and unfazed, praising Cook and gushing in teen-speak about performing with Bryan Adams (“That was really cool,” he said, giggling).

“I just believe I made it this far. I didn’t think I would make it past the first round, for Pete’s sake,” Archuleta said.

Asked about his plans, the teenager said he will try to keep education in the mix because of the uncertainty for anyone of a lasting music career.

“People can have a few years of performing” then have to turn to something else, he said.

During the show, viewers got songs from runners-up including Syesha Mercado, who dueted with Seal on his song “Waiting for You,” and a solo on “Hallelujah” by dreadlocked Jason Castro.

Other “Idol” contestant and name-brand pairings: Cook with ZZ Top, Archuleta with OneRepublic, Bryan Adams with the top six male singers and Brooke White with Graham Nash.

“Brooke looks so much better than Crosby,” Nash quipped backstage, referring to bandmate David Crosby.

The Jonas Brothers got the stage to themselves for a performance. George Michael wrapped up the night, and was joined onstage by all 12 finalists for a medley of his hits.

In Utah, Archuleta fans who gathered to watch the finale took the loss like a collective kick. Mouths dropped, eyes widened and several teenage girls hugged and cried at a live viewing party at EnergySolutions arena in Salt Lake City.

“Did you feel that?” said Skippy Jessop, 30, his home-made sign now headed for the trash bin. “It felt like a punch in the gut. We all just stood there with our mouths hanging open.”

But fans say this won’t be the last note from Utah’s newest favorite son.

Simon says ‘sorry’ to Cook

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Did Simon Cowell know David Cook would win? Or was he - gasp! - just being nice?

Right before host Ryan Seacrest announced Cook as the next “American Idol,” Cowell issued an uncharacteristic apology to the sincere 25-year-old rocker for skewering him during Tuesday’s final performance show. Cowell went so far as to say that the remarks he made the night before to the future “Idol” winner were “verging on disrespectful.”

“When I went back home and watched it, it wasn’t quite so clear cut as we called it,” he said to the final two.

Cowell congratulated and praised both Cook and runner-up David Archuleta, the smiley 17-year-old crooner

from Murray, Utah. Cowell even revealed that “for the first time ever, I don’t really care who wins.”

Such comments came as a surprise to many after Cowell heaped huge amounts of praise on Archuleta and said he won the competition by a “knockout.”

The 48-year-old acerbic judge was very wrong: Cook overcame Archuleta with 12 million more votes.

“I didn’t really know if the apology was warranted,” Cook later told reporters backstage. “I thought what he said was an opinion and nothing more. At no point did I feel disrespected. Yeah, I’m appreciative of the fact that he decided to apologize. An apology from Simon is a pretty rare gem.”

It’s not the first time Cowell has been nice during the show’s seventh season. The resident grinch gave the thumbs-up during the audition round to a young mother who had a new lease on life after a terrible car accident, but no real shot at cracking the finalists’ ranks. Then again, any act of Cowell kindness would seem significant following the outrage he provoked during sixth season tryouts.

“I’m glad he apologized to Cook because I don’t think anyone realizes how much work we put into this, and how it’s not like we just learn the song the day before,” Archuleta said in the press room. “We just love to be able to share what we love to do with everyone.”



David Cook waves at the audience after being named the new American Idol during the season finale of American Idol on Wednesday May 21, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Murray, Utah, by a margin of 12 million votes out of the record 97.5 million cast by viewers.

Cook was overcome with emotion, bending toward the stage after his name was announced. When he stood up, his eyes were filled with tears, the second time in as many nights that the scruffy, grainy-voiced belter had broken down.

“The ride here has been pretty nuts,” Cook said to a roomful of reporters backstage. “You couldn’t write this - or maybe you can.”

For the final performances Tuesday, Cook refused to bow to the conventional during his three-song set, with Collective Soul’s “The World I Know” as his pick for a closing song. He also sang U2’s “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” and the power ballad “Dream Big,” his choice from the song-writing competition’s non-winning finalists.

Judge Simon Cowell declared

network said Wednesday.

That provoked a frenzy with a record 97.5 million audience votes cast by phone and text. Last year’s total vote count was 74 million.

While Archuleta was showered with praise by the judges all season, online bookies and observers kept the faith with Cook. One Web site, which tracks busy signals on the separate phone lines dedicated to each contestant, projected him the winner correctly Wednesday morning.

By strict “Idol” standards, being rebellious turned out to be worth the gamble for Cook, whose hip and scruffy style and ability to work the camera with a soulful gaze also proved to have overwhelming appeal.

Archuleta was the prodigy who consistently dazzled the show’s judges and thrilled screaming young fans. He would have been the youngest “Idol” ever if he’d won, beating

Seacrest says 'American Idol' vote not even close

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "American Idol" finale got under way Tuesday with a startling revelation: the contest between David Archuleta and David Cook wasn't even close.

With a record 97.5 million audience votes cast by phone and text, the split between the two contestants was 56 percent for one David and 44 percent for the other, host Ryan Seacrest announced at the start of the show.

Seacrest, of course, left in question who got the lion's share; that detail wouldn't come until the closing moments of the two-hour live broadcast.

In the meantime, viewers got songs from runners-up including Syesha Mercado, who dueted with Seal on his song "Waiting for You," and a solo on "Hallelujah" by dreadlocked Jason Castro.

Other "Idol" contestant and name-brand pairings: Cook with ZZ Top, Archuleta with OneRepublic, Bryan Adams with the top six male singers and Brooke White with Graham Nash.

"Brooke looks so much better than Crosby," Nash quipped backstage, referring to bandmate David Crosby.

The Jonas Brothers got the stage to themselves for a performance.

"American Idol" also celebrated the awfulness that is part of the show, usually confined to the early auditions, with a performance by failed contestant



David Archuleta, left, and Ryan Seacrest are seen on stage at the American Idol season finale on Wednesday May 21, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Reynaldo Lapuz that threw in University of Southern California cheerleaders and marching band members.

There was also an extended promotion for a new Mike Myers film, "The Love Guru," with the finalists gamely taking part in a mock counseling session with Myers in character.

A live show can have its glitches, but they were minor Wednesday in the early going.

During a duet between Mercado and disco queen Donna Summer, an apparent malfunction in Mercado's hand mike prompted Summer to quickly hand over her own rhinestone-studded one.

When it comes to the main event, the contest, "Idol" usually is cagey about releasing vote counts, to the annoyance of fans—and once to Fox's embarrassment.

During the 2003 finale, "American Idol" ran into math trouble when Seacrest twice announced incorrect numbers for the close vote between winner Ruben Studdard and runner-up Clay Aiken. The first incorrect figure—13,000—was displayed on the TelePrompTer; the second—1,300—was written on a card given Seacrest.

The difference between the two, out of nearly 24 million votes counted, was about 130,000, Fox later said.

David Cook is 'Going to Disney World!'

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- David Cook is no professional athlete, but he celebrated like one after winning "American Idol" on Wednesday night.

Cook, the season seven "Idol" champ after beating teen crooner David Archuleta, took a moment to shout "I'm going to Disney World!" during the celebration following his win, Disney said Wednesday. It was a rare off-field exception for those famous promotional words, which have almost always been uttered by sports figures.

Since 1987, Super Bowl, World Series and NBA Finals champs have made the pronouncement as the crowd cheers and confetti flies.

The "Idol" tie-in relates to the new "American Idol" attraction opening at Walt Disney World in Florida in January 2009.

The live performance attraction, based on "American Idol" at Disney's Hollywood Studios theme park, allow guests to audition and perform before a live studio audience inside the Hollywood Studios' theater space. Disney licensed the rights to create the attraction from "Idol" co-producers 19 Entertainment and FremantleMedia, despite the fact "American Idol" airs on Fox and Disney owns broadcast competitor ABC.

Aging star power lights up 'American Idol' finale

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- On a night when "American Idol" viewers were focused on two young singers named David - Cook and Archuleta - the Fox singing competition's seventh-season conclusion had plenty of appearances from a few older idols.

Perhaps the most notable was a George Michael medley saved for the very end, featuring Michael himself and the top 12 "Idol" finalists.

Among the duets: Cook performed "Sharp Dressed Man" with his Les Paul guitar alongside ZZ Top before being crowned winner. Runner-up Archuleta was teamed up with OneRepublic for "Apologize." Third-place finalist Syesha Mercado joined Seal on his song "Waiting for You." And Graham Nash and Brooke White went acoustic on "Teach Your Children."

Nash - of Crosby, Stills and Nash fame - praised White backstage and proclaimed that the

fifth-place finalist was ready to go the next level. Before Cook was revealed as the latest "Idol" winner, Nash said he thought Archuleta would take home the title because he "poured his heart and soul" into his rendition of "Imagine" during Tuesday's final performance show.

"Both of these Davids are going to make a fortune, as they should," the 66-year-old singer-songwriter told reporters backstage.

The finalists also performed medleys with a few old timers. The top six male singers were teamed up with Bryan Adams, while the top six female contestants were partnered with Donna Summer. Their routine featured the disco diva singing her new song "Stamp Your Feet" for the first time in front of an audience. So what's it like for a legend to perform with on the "Idol" youngsters?

"Woool!" Summer exclaimed in the press room. "It's like getting adrenaline put in your veins!"

A look at the 'Idol' winners

A look at the winners of Fox's "American Idol" and what they've been up to since taking home the prize:

■ KELLY CLARKSON

The big-voiced 26-year-old singer has released three albums since winning the first "Idol," selling over 25 million albums combined. Her name was immortalized in 2005 when Steven Carell screamed it out after getting his chest waxed in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." Earlier this year, Clarkson headlined a series of live concerts with country superstar Reba McEntire.

■ RUBEN STUDDARD

The 29-year-old crooner has released two records, including a gospel album: 2004's "I Need an Angel." Studdard has maintained his connection to "Idol" since winning the season finale in 2003. He performed during the sixth season finale and his song "Celebrate Me Home" was used as the official exit song during the seventh season.

■ FANTASIA BARRINO

The raspy-voiced 23-year-old singer - and single mother - has released two albums, "Free Yourself" and "Fantasia." In 2007, Barrino starred as Celie in the Broadway musical version of "The Color Purple." Barrino has announced she was cast in the same role for a planned big-screen take on the Oprah Winfrey-produced musical.

■ CARRIE UNDERWOOD

The 25-year-old country crooner is arguably the singing competition's most successful winner, becoming a multi-platinum selling recording artist with her two albums, "Some Hearts" and "Carnival Rides." She was recently voted top female vocalist for the second straight year at the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

■ TAYLOR HICKS

The 31-year-old Soul Patrol leader's self-titled post-"Idol" album sold 702,000 copies but didn't reach the 1 million mark or register a hit song, unlike previous "Idol" winners. Hicks will join the Broadway cast of "Grease" on June 6, playing Teen Angel in the revival of the popular musical.

■ JORDIN SPARKS

The 18-year-old singer's self-titled first album debuted at No. 10 on Billboard. Since winning the sixth season in 2007, Sparks performed the national anthem at Super Bowl XLII. Her single "No Air" - a debut with Chris Brown - peaked at No. 3 on Billboard. A recent throat injury forced her to cancel several shows on Alicia Keys' tour.

■ DAVID COOK

The scruffy 25-year-old rocker from Blue Springs, Mo., used an electric guitar, a grainy voice and a soulful gaze to overpower 17-year-old crooner David Archuleta during the seventh season finale, despite the fact the judges had declared the teen the favorite in the final round. What kind of record will Cook make? "A good one," he told reporters following his win.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Gregorio Muna Quitugua

Known as 'Tun Goru' Ankoi

Born on September 6, 1930
Died on May 18, 2008

Predeceased by:

Parents: Jose Diaz Quitugua and Maria Santos Muna Quitugua
Parents-In-Law: Ignacio Diaz Borja and Ana Arriola Borja
Sister: Susana Q. Babautia
Brothers: Jesus M. Quitugua and Fermin M. Quitugua
Brothers-In-law: Antonio S. Palacios, Calistro C. Ada, Jose C. Muna
Sisters-In-Law: Magdalena B. Palacios, Rosa Camacho Borja, Matilde T. Quitugua, Olympia Selepeo Borja, Maria Sablan Quitugua
Numerous others: Godparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends

Survived by:

Wife: Luise Borja Quitugua

Children:

Elbert & Jane Rodriguez Quitugua, children and grandchildren
Frank & Anicia Q. Tomokane, children and grandchildren
Abraham & Rosa Sablan Quitugua, children and grandchildren
Noel & Marcy Rasa Quitugua, children and grandchildren
Moses & Teresa Eugenio Quitugua, children and grandchildren
Mark & Maggie Pangelinan Quitugua and children
Alan & Miyang Q. Aguon, children and grandchild
Al & Manding Q. Camacho and children
Raymond & Nora Arriola Quitugua and children

Brother: Ricardo M. Quitugua

Brothers-In-Law: Eugenio A. Borja and Carlos A. Borja

Sisters-In-Law: Luisa Matagolai Quitugua, Auria A. Borja, Josepha B. Ada, Consolacion B. Muna

Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and beloved friends

Nightly rosary led by Ms. Juanita C. Guerrero is at Kristo Rai Church at 7:30.

Tun Goru will be at Kristo Rai Church on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 8 a.m.

Mass will be at 1:00 p.m. and Burial will follow immediately at the Santuario in Kagman.

Daughter of Christian music star killed by car



This undated family handout provided by the Chapman family shows from left to right: Will Franklin, Maria, Steven Curtis, Shaoey, MaryBeth, Stevey Joy, Caleb, and Emily Chapman.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The 5-year-old daughter of Grammy-winning Christian music star Steven Curtis Chapman was struck and killed Wednesday by a sport utility vehicle driven by her brother, authorities said.

The girl, Maria Sue, was hit in the driveway of the family's home Wednesday afternoon by a Toyota Land Cruiser driven by her teenage brother, said Laura McPherson, a spokeswoman for the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

The brother, whose name and exact age weren't available, apparently did not see the girl, McPherson said. No charges are expected.

"It looks like a tragic accident," she said.

Several family members witnessed the accident, which happened in Williamson County just south of Nashville. The girl

died later at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, hospital spokeswoman Laurie Holloway said.

In a statement, Velvet Kelm, a publicist for Chapman, said Maria was the Chapmans' youngest daughter.

Chapman, who is originally from Paducah, Ky., and his wife have promoted international adoption and have three daughters from China, including Maria. They also have three biological children.

The singer's Web site says the couple was persuaded by their oldest daughter to adopt a girl from China. The experience led the family to adopt two more children and create Shaohannah's Hope, a foundation and ministry to financially assist thousands of couples in adoption.

The Chapmans did missionary work at Chinese orphanages

in 2006 and 2007, according to the Web site.

"After our first trip to China, my wife and I knew our lives were changing - our eyes and hearts were opening to how big God really is, and we have wanted to experience more of that," Chapman says on the Web site.

"We've really wondered whether or not we should just go to China and stay there. But I don't think so. I believe God is saying, 'I want you to go, get your heart broken, your eyes opened, and then take this story back to the church in America and around the world.'"

The 45-year-old singer also has released a book about being a father titled "Cinderella: The Love of Daddy and his Princess." He has won five Grammy awards and 54 Dove awards from the Gospel Music Association, according to Kelm.

Yoko Ono tries to block use of 'Imagine' in film

NEW YORK (AP)—Yoko Ono wants a judge to imagine a movie challenging the theory of evolution—but without John Lennon's song "Imagine" in it.

The film's distributors are fighting to keep it in—and are urging the judge to act quickly so the movie can yet play a role in the presidential campaign this fall.

The judge was expected to rule as early as this week on the legal battle between Lennon's widow and the makers of "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed."

Ono sued in state and federal court, accusing the movie's producers of infringing on the song's copyright by using parts without her permission.

The movie, which opened on U.S. screens in April and is set for release in Canada on June 6 and on DVD in October, presents a sympathetic view of intel-



In this Sept. 24, 2007 file photo, Yoko Ono, is shown in London.

ligent design, the theory that the universe is too complex to be explained by evolution alone.

The filmmakers acknowledge they did not ask Ono for permission to use 15 to 20 seconds of the song. But they argue they are protected by the "fair use" doctrine, which permits small parts

of a copyrighted work to be used without an author's permission under certain circumstances.

The case is similar to one brought by author J.K. Rowling to stop publication of a Harry Potter encyclopedia by the creator of a Web site dedicated to her popular children's books. A judge is still deciding that case, after a trial earlier this year.

At a hearing in U.S. District Court in Manhattan this week, the filmmakers' lawyer, Anthony T. Falzone, said that if the judge granted Ono's request for an injunction against the film, it would "muzzle" the filmmakers' free-speech rights.

Falzone said the segment of the song in the film—"nothing to kill or die for, and no religion too"—was central to the movie because "it represents the most popular and persuasive embodiment of this viewpoint that the world is better off without religion."

Witness in R. Kelly trial IDs alleged victim

CHICAGO (AP)—A childhood friend of the alleged victim in the R. Kelly child pornography case testified Wednesday that she recognizes her longtime friend as the one in the explicit video at the center of the trial.

The R&B superstar is accused of videotaping himself having sex with a girl as young as 13. His attorneys have said Kelly's not on the tape and the alleged victim, who is now 23, also denies she's the person in

the video.

Prosecutors showed the footage within hours of opening statements Tuesday and now they're working to prove their claim that Kelly and the alleged victim are indeed in the video.

On Wednesday, Simha Jamison, 24, said she and the alleged victim were best friends for about 10 years until their junior year in high school—and that she knows her friend's face quite well.

She testified she and her friend visited Kelly at his recording studio and at a Chicago basketball court dozens of times starting when they were around the age of 12.

Her friend first introduced her to Kelly as "her godfather," Jamison said, adding that the singer frequently gave her friend cash gifts—"no less than \$100 and no more than \$500."

She said the two also visited the home where authorities say

Pink Floyd, Renee Fleming win Polar Music Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Pink Floyd and soprano Renee Fleming were named winners of the 2008 Polar Music Prize on Wednesday for their contributions to their musical genres.

The British rock group and Fleming will each receive a cash prize of \$168,000 at an Aug. 26 awards ceremony in Stockholm, organizers said.

The Polar Music Prize is Sweden's biggest music award.

It was founded by Stig Anderson, manager of Swedish pop group ABBA, in 1989.

The prize committee cited Fleming's "sublime, unparalleled voice and unique stylistic versatility."

A two-time Grammy winner, Fleming, 49, has performed in opera houses worldwide after her professional debut more than 20 years ago.

The committee said Pink Floyd,

founded in the 1960s, had made a "monumental contribution" in the development of popular culture.

"They captured the mood and spirit of a whole generation in their reflections and attitudes," the citation said.

The band, famed for albums such as "Dark Side of the Moon" and "The Wall," was "foremost in shaping the sounds that would influence artists forever," it read.

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SPEED RACER (PG)



2008 © Warner Bros. Pictures

Synopsis

Hurling down the track, careening around, over and through the competition, Speed Racer is a natural behind the wheel. Born to race cars, Speed is aggressive, instinctive and, most of all, fearless. His only real competition is the memory of the brother he idolized—the legendary Rex Racer—whose death in a race has left behind a legacy that Speed is driven to fulfill. Speed is loyal to the family racing business, led by his father, Pops Racer, the designer of Speed's thundering Mach 5.

Fri - Mon 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:45
Tues - Thurs 4:10 7:00

IRON MAN (PG-13)



2008 © Paramount Pictures

Synopsis

As CEO of Stark Industries, the U.S. Government's top weapons contractor, billionaire industrialist and genius inventor Tony Stark has achieved celebrity status by protecting American interests around the globe for decades. Tony's carefree lifestyle is forever changed when his convoy is attacked following a weapons test he oversees and he is held hostage by a group of insurgents.

Fri - Mon 1:00 4:00 7:25 9:55
Tues - Thurs 4:00 7:25

INDIANA JONES

& THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13)



2008 © Paramount Pictures

Synopsis

Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—Indiana and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy's recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.

Fri - Mon 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Tues - Thurs 4:25 7:15

FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13)

Fri - Mon 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Tues - Thurs 4:30 7:20

MADE OF HONOR (PG-13)

Fri - Mon 1:15 4:25 7:05 9:30
Tues - Thurs 4:25 7:05

BABY MAMA (PG-13)

Fri - Mon 1:05 4:15 7:30 9:50
Tues - Thurs 4:15 7:30

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R)

Fri - Mon 1:25 4:05 7:10 9:40
Tues - Thurs 4:05 7:10

FREE Pack of Indiana Jones Trading Cards to FIRST 1000 PATRONS
Friday, Saturday and Sunday

• NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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Lee says Eastwood omitted black troops in WWII films

CANNES, France (AP)—Spike Lee is slamming Clint Eastwood over his two recent Iwo Jima movies, saying the filmmaker overlooked the role of black soldiers during World War II.

Lee—whose next film is this fall's "Miracle at St. Anna," the story of an all-black U.S. division fighting in Italy during the war—said Eastwood's 2006 movies "Flags of Our Fathers" and "Letters From Iwo Jima" were whites-only affairs.

"He did two films about Iwo Jima back to back and there was not one black soldier in both of those films," Lee said Tuesday at the Cannes Film Festival, where he was a judge in an online short-film competition.

"Many veterans, African-Americans, who survived that war are upset at Clint Eastwood. In his vision of Iwo Jima, Ne-

gro soldiers did not exist. Simple as that. I have a different version," Lee said.

Eastwood was in Cannes for his missing-child drama "Changeling," starring Angelina Jolie. At a news conference for the film, a reporter tried to ask for his reaction to Lee's criticism, but the moderator cut her off and told journalists to limit questions to Eastwood's own movie.

Due in U.S. theaters in October, "Miracle at St. Anna" centers on four Americans—played by Derek Luke, Michael Ealy, Laz Alonso and Omar Benson Miller—in the Buffalo Soldiers division in Tuscany.

American director Spike Lee attends the Chopard Trophy party during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Monday, May 19, 2008. AP



Spielberg given honor for Holocaust, Darfur work



Spielberg

PARIS (AP)—Steven Spielberg is now an officer in the French Legion of Honor.

President Nicolas Sarkozy said the honor was prompted by the filmmaker's work on documenting the Holocaust and his efforts to help the war-ravaged Darfur region of Sudan.

Spielberg, 61, met with Sarkozy

in the French presidential palace on Wednesday.

He was at the Cannes Film Festival last weekend for the world premiere of his new film, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," starring Harrison Ford.

The French Legion of Honor is one of the country's highest awards.

Snipes seeks bond as he appeals tax convictions

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—Wesley Snipes must surrender to prison authorities June 3 if he isn't granted bail to appeal three federal tax convictions, defense lawyers said in a court filing.

Snipes' attorneys plan to argue before the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the trial judge erred in several ways before and after his February conviction. U.S. District Judge William Terrell Hodges last month sentenced Snipes to three years in prison.

To be granted freedom during the appeal, the 45-year-old actor must prove that he has a

substantial issue to raise and isn't a flight risk. His attorneys argue that Hodges gave the jury bad instructions and should have granted them an expanded pretrial hearing on their request to move the proceedings.

Prosecutors said Snipes had no major issues to raise and has demonstrated he could flee. In a Monday filing, U.S. Attorney Robert O'Neill said Snipes told the probation office he had less than \$10,000 in liquid assets, but the actor surprised the government by

producing \$5 million in payment for back taxes at his sentencing.



Snipes

"His apparent lack of candor about his assets, combined with trial evidence that he has transferred millions of dollars offshore, show some risk of flight," O'Neill wrote.

Snipes, the star of the "Blade" trilogy, "White Men Can't Jump," "Jungle Fever" and other films, hasn't filed a tax return since 1998, the government alleged.

Boy band creator sentenced to 25 years in prison



AP

Lou Pearlman poses outside his office's at Church Street Station in Orlando, Fla., in this Oct. 27, 2006 file photo.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Lou Pearlman, the man who created the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, was sentenced Wednesday to 25 years in federal prison for engineering a decades-long scam that bilked thousands of investors out of their life savings.

It was the maximum sentence the boy band mogul could receive for allegedly swindling some \$300 million from investors and banks since the early 1980s.

He pleaded guilty in March to two counts of conspiracy and single counts of money laundering and presenting a false claim in bankruptcy court.

U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharp noted that many vic-

tims were Pearlman's relatives, friends and retirees in their 70s or 80s who lost everything.

"The sympathy factor just doesn't run very high with the court," Sharp said.

However, the judge said he would reduce Pearlman's sentence by one month for every \$1 million returned to investors. It wasn't clear how, or if, investors would ever be compensated.

"I want to say clearly that there's no pot of gold out there," defense attorney Fletcher Peacock said.

Prosecutors allege Pearlman scammed individuals out of an estimated \$200 million, and banks out of another \$100 million.

The courtroom was packed

Amy Winehouse to perform at Glastonbury music fest

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse will perform at this summer's Glastonbury Festival.

She will play the festival's main Pyramid Stage on June 28, just before headliner Jay-Z, it was announced Wednesday.

Organizers said the late addition of Winehouse to the lineup wasn't the result of issues in the singer's turbulent personal life.

Winehouse, 24, was arrested and questioned by police earlier this month about video footage that appeared to show her inhaling fumes from a crack pipe. Police later said she wouldn't be charged.

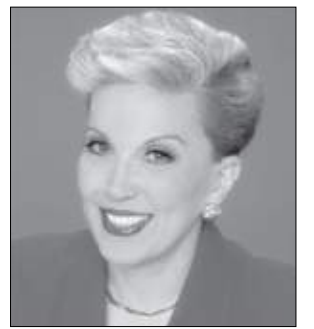
The Grammy-winning singer, best known for her breakthrough hit "Rehab," is also scheduled to play Britain's Bestival, T in the Park and V Festivals this summer.



Winehouse

Moment of silence honors those who sacrificed for us

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: Would you please invite all Americans to stand together, unified in spirit, for 60 seconds of respectful silence during the National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time this Memorial Day?

The purpose of this moment is a noble one, to honor America's fallen. The freedoms we take for granted each day are reminders of their ultimate sacrifice and our ongoing debt to them. We mourn our fallen and honor their courageous legacy and the future they bequeathed to us.

The agony of a fallen soldier's mother is as old as war. One such mother is Sallie Stubenhofer. Her son, Mark, was killed by a sniper in Iraq. He left three young children, including a daughter who was born four months after his return to active duty. Mark and his wife named their baby Hope, which signified what he wanted to offer his children and all children.

The Moment of Remembrance and our year-long, life-long determination to "live honoring America's fallen" are in memory of Army Capt. Mark Stubenhofer and all those brave members of our military who have died in the service of our nation. We invite all Americans to pause in their Memorial Day activities at 3:00 local time to honor those who live in our history, reside in our hearts and rest forever in the arms of God.

—CARMELLA LA SPADA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON REMEMBRANCE

DEAR CARMELLA: I am pleased to convey your invitation to observe the annual Moment of Remembrance.

Readers, Memorial Day is Monday. I hope you will join me and millions of other Americans at 3 p.m. local time in giving heartfelt acknowledgment of our fallen heroes for the noble sacrifice they have made in the name of freedom.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 25 and have fallen in love with "Brad," a wonderful and very successful businessman. On a recent trip out of town, my co-workers were joking that we were going to elope.

I told Brad about it and how ridiculous it was, since we have been dating only about six months. He replied that we couldn't elope because I haven't signed a pre-nup! I stewed over it for a couple of days and, because I couldn't get it off my mind, brought it up again and asked him if he was serious.

Brad said he was. He said he has worked hard for what he has (which I understand) and mentioned the fact that I have a failed first marriage. I didn't think that was fair. My husband had cheated on me, and we were married only a few months. We talked further, and Brad said if he thought I was with him because of his money, he wouldn't be with me.

I understand his reasons for wanting a pre-nup, but doesn't getting one indicate that we are preparing to fail? I am pretty sure marriage will be in our future, and I'll sign a pre-nup (after my attorney reviews it), but it seems like negative thinking. How can I get my head around this?

—DON'T FEEL TRUSTED IN ALABAMA

DEAR DON'T: One way to "get your head around it" would be to remember that a pre-nuptial agreement carries with it guarantees for BOTH parties. Many couples have them to protect assets accumulated before marriage. Such a document not only protects the man, it can be structured so that YOU have certain guarantees should the marriage not work out.

I strongly recommend that you discuss this with your attorney before you discuss it with Brad again. As with any other legal document, I agree that it should be reviewed with your legal counsel before you sign it.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

GARAGE SALE **Saturday May 24th**
8am-1pm
 TO KAGMAN
 MOBILE
 TO CAPITOL HILL
 Children clothing, toys, appliances, household items, vases, baskets, much much more.
 Look for house (yellow) with concrete fence
 LaLa pl.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



FRANKFURTER

Find today's solution in this section

TRIPLE J MOTORS
 NEW CARS • USED CARS • PARTS • SERVICE

is now accepting applications for

SALES ASSOCIATE
(Auto sales experience a plus but not necessary)



Unlimited earning potential based upon attitude and desire to be part of a progressive forward thinking family-owned business. Competitive compensation with experience including aggressive bonuses, 401K, vacation & holiday pay, medical & dental plan.

Apply at the **Triple J Corporate Offices**
 3rd Floor, TSL Building
 (beside Liberty Plaza), Beach Road, Garapan
 Monday through Friday,
 from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm.
 For more information, pls. call: **234-1795**

Current Driver's License and court or police clearance required upon submitting application.
 Pre-employment drug test and police clearance required upon selection.

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.



Executive Home
for Sale or Lease

- 4 Bedrooms / 3 Baths
- +/- 2,500 sq ft
- 4,250 sq/m in peaceful Papago
- Beautiful View
- Modern Kitchen
- Housekeepers Quarters
- 25 KW Generator
- 5,000 gal Water Tank

\$369,000 or \$2,000 p/mo OBO

For more information, pls. call:

483-3884

GARAGE/YARD SALE

Leaving The Island Sale. Everything must go! Chalan Kanoa beside the cemetery across Bigboys. May 17-18 & 24-25, 2008. Call 235-4975.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

WHATZIT Solution: Underdog



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB08-CHC-069
SUBMISSION: JUNE 18, 2008 **TIME: 1:00 P.M.**
"VIP HOUSING FOR PHYSICIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"
 COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWERBASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
 PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.
 /s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ SECRETARY OF HEALTH
 /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



Ladera International School of Saipan
 is seeking for team player and motivated teachers

Position : **Classroom Teacher**

Minimum Requirements: Degree from accredited university with a BA in an education-related major.

Salary : Varies based upon education and experience

Please submit your resume with recent picture to lissilc@yahoo.com.

LISS will be holding its 2nd Summer School Program for SY2007-2008 open to all Elementary students.

First Session, June 9 to July 4, 2008
Second Session, July 7 to August 1, 2008

Time: 7:30am to 2:20pm (Mondays thru Fridays)

Other Summer Programs includes school wide: Educational Weekend Activities • Leadership Program ESL Program • Science Camp

Said program will focus on academic subjects. Any interested participants will get to enjoy this program at a very reasonable price.

For more information, please contact Ms. Hazel at 288 2006.

Take advantage of special tuition rates and scholarship program.

BUSH CUTTER
SMALL ENGINE
MOTORBIKE/BOAT
REPAIRS

233-5641
 Open 7 Day a Week
 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

GARAGE SALE
[LEAVING ISLAND]
 Going to Valley View Apt. (Capitol Hill)
Appliances, baby crib, baby clothing, and much more.
When: May 24 & 25, 2008
Time: 7:30am - 2:00pm
Contact: 322-6900

Make it a daily habit!

www.saipantribune.com



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-08-2293

For: **SECURITY SERVICES AT SELECTED TOURIST SITES**

Closing Date: **June 27, 2008**

Time: **3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time)**

Submit sealed proposals to:

The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 510008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the MVA Saipan office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday) except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
Managing Director



THE ATHLETE'S FOOT

will soon open a branch in Guam. Come and apply in person at either 1 of the 2 locations:

Saipan: **Joeten Enterprises at Susupe Shopping Center, 2nd floor,**
via fax at (670) 234-5876 or via email at hrd@joeten.com

Guam: **145 harmon Industrial Park, Tamuning, GU 96931**

The following positions are:

1 SUPERVISOR (Full Time/Part-Time) \$7.05/hr – \$7.55/hr

Must have min. 2 years College (preferably in the field of business) and at least 3 years supervisor/management experience. Extra years of required experience can compensate for lack of college years.

1 WAREHOUSE/EXPEDITER \$6.55/hr.

2 years experience (preferably in the field of footwear), high school graduate and must have valid Drivers License.

2 SALES ASSOCIATE (Part-Time) – \$6.55/hr.

years retail experience (preferably in the field of footwear, minimum high school diploma or equivalent.

1 SALES ASSOCIATE (Full-Time) – \$6.55/hr.

years retail experience (preferably in the field of footwear, minimum high school diploma or equivalent.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW08-IFB-020

LIGHTING RETROFIT FOR GROUND FLOOR LEVEL REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING T-12 TO HIGH PERFORMANCE T-8 LIGHTING FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Lighting Retrofit for Ground Floor Level Replacement of Existing T-12 to High Performance T-8 Lighting for the Commonwealth Health Center, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after May 9, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 28, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Commonwealth Health Center Maintenance Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site, AR questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 2, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-020**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 5, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 5, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 5, 2008, and must be received no later than June 16, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 19, 2008. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 10, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks may be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the authorized funding agency.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
Director, Energy Division

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW08-RFP-021

PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE LAKE SUSUPE BOARDWALK TRAIL PROJECT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Secretary of the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), are soliciting sealed proposals from individuals and/ or firms for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the Lake Susupe Boardwalk Trail Project, Saipan.

The selected individuals and/ or firms will be retained for the preparation, development, and submittal of a complete Environmental Assessment (EA) Report in accordance with applicable local and federal regulations as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it applies to all Office of Insular Affairs, United States Department of the Interior funded projects. This report will be used in the planning and development of an acceptable design for the project. The individuals and/ or firms will be responsible for the planning, coordination, research, preparation, presentations, and other related tasks necessary to complete the EA as directed by the Director of the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works.

The estimated completion time for this project is (180) calendar days from the issuance of the written Notice to Proceed.

The procurement of this RFP is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Rules and Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 3-103 of the Regulations. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after 8:00 a.m., **Friday, May 16, 2008** at the Department of Public Works 2nd Floor-Oleai Commercial Building Office, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (**\$25.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the Department of Public Works 2nd Floor-Oleai Commercial Building Office. A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for Thursday, **June 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Technical Services Division 2nd Floor-Oleai Commercial Building Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to W. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW, Oleai Office, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, **June 20, 2008**. A list of all questions and responses will be provided to each respondent and transmitted via facsimile.

Selection of the top three (3) most technically qualified, responsive, and responsible Firm will be made based on the following criteria:

Technical Requirements:

1. Qualifications and resumes of the individual(s) and/or firm(s) to be assigned to the project and associated responsibilities	40%
2. Past Experience of the individual(s) and/or firm(s) on similar projects of size and scope	30%
3. Proposed Approach and Methodology of the individual(s) and/or firm(s) to complete the work, including timetables of deliverables	20%
4. Current workload and ability to complete the scope of work within the time frame	10%

Award shall be based on the provisions set forth in Section 3-103(8), award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation and the contract file shall contain the basis on which the award is made. Within three working days after the date of contract award, the P&S Director shall provide written notification to each unsuccessful offeror.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW08-RFP-021**". For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, June 25, 2008. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, June 25, 2008, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 25, 2008 AND must be received no later than July 2, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of Copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This procurement is funded through the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA). Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

All responses to this PFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor, Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Acting Secretary, of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

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A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment,
garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements,
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Haifa Adail
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**

ADDENDUM NO. 1

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-08-003

May 20, 2008

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is extending the bid due date to **June 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.**, local time and is issuing the following amendments for CUC-IFB-08-003, **Rehabilitation of the Existing Airport Slow Sand Filtration Rehabilitation Project Saipan, CNMI:**

1. Revised Bid Schedule. (Will be pick-up at CUC Procurement & Supply at the Joeten Dandan Bldg, 3rd Floor Room #4)
2. Response to prospective bidders questions & additional comments from CUC. (Will be pick-up at CUC Procurement & Supply at the Joeten Dandan Bldg, 3rd Floor Room #4)
3. One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted to Procurement and Supply Manager, P.O. Box 501220 CK Sampan, MP 96950, or hand delivered to Saipan, CUC Procurement & Supply at the Joeten Dandan Bldg, 3rd Floor Room #4 no later than **2:00 p.m., on June 6, 2008** at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to Mr. Larry Manacop, Water Division at telephone number (670) 235-7025 thru 7032 ext: 155

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID

IFB 08-031

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Renovation of the Koblerville Elementary School Bilingual Classroom**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, for a non-refundable fee of \$3.25, located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-031" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-031, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy. Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Carl F. de la Cruz**
Acting P&S Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid

IFB 08-028

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids from Regionally Accredited Institutions of Higher Learning for the Extension of College Level Coursework Leading to the Completion of a either a Bachelor's or Master's Degree. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-028" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **May 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-028, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Carl F. de la Cruz**
Acting P&S Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid

IFB 08-029

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Delivery of Mobility Equipped Vans**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-029" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-029, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3068 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Carl F. de la Cruz**
Acting P&S Officer

NFL owners vote to opt out of labor agreement



ATLANTA (AP)—The NFL and its players' union are on the clock. As it counts down, the games will go on. To nobody's surprise, owners voted unanimously Tuesday to end their labor agreement with the union in 2011, opting out of a deal that could have gone through 2013.

"All this means is that we will have football now until 2010 and not until 2012," Gene Upshaw, the executive director of the NFL Players Association said during a conference call. "We will move ahead."

Both Upshaw and commissioner Roger Goodell were reasonably optimistic that an agreement could be reached before the start of the 2010 free-agent season, presumably in March of that year. If there is none, that would be the first season without a salary cap since the year after the 1993 labor contract was signed, ending more than a half-decade without labor strife.

Upshaw suggested that once the cap went away, the union would never let one back. Goodell suggested that might be rhetoric—that the owners weren't worried about playing without a cap and that some system would be put in

place that could work.

Goodell, who as Paul Tagliabue's top aide, was instrumental in helping get the owners to ratify the current deal, noted what other league officials have said—that changing economic times and rising stadium costs have caused problems for owners. He acknowledged the league wasn't having dire financial problems, only that teams were making less money and the pendulum in the contract had swung toward the players.

"We all were making an effort to try to keep labor peace," he said of the 2006 agreement, which came at a time the league was a year away from an uncapped season. "We reached an agreement that we knew was going to be pushing the envelope. After two years of living within that system, we recognize that it doesn't work long term for us. That's the way it goes."

Reaction varied and both players and owners seemed optimistic that there would be no work stoppage.

"A lot can happen in three years," said Dallas owner Jerry Jones, whose new stadium will open next year and host the Super Bowl after the 2010 season.

Players also preferred not to think about a work stoppage. Upshaw has

said the union won't strike but owners could lock out players if there is no agreement by then.

"It's obviously a legitimate concern, but three years is a long time," Denver cornerback Dominique Foxworth said. "Hopefully we can get something done. The most important thing there is nobody who benefits from not having a season, so I think in that time we'll find a way, between the players union and the league, to make it happen."

"Our league has been very prosperous, so any time you're talking about anything that could effect labor, it is a big deal," said Houston kicker Kris Brown, the Texans' union representative. "It's not like the threat of losing a season is imminent, because that's not the case. We're talking about this now but one year from now, two years from now we could come to an agreement and have an extension and all this is for nothing."

There are, in fact, incentives to prevent even an uncapped season.

There are suggestions that the richer teams such as Washington and Dallas would spend millions on top free agents and build all-star teams.

On the other hand, the contract ex-

tends the length of time for free agency in an uncapped year from four years to six and allows teams to protect one extra player with franchise or transition tags. In addition, the two-year lag would allow many teams to extend the contracts of their most important players, maintaining the continuity that is important to winning teams.

In the statement announcing the opt out, the owners noted they are paying \$4.5 billion to players this year, just under 60 percent of their total revenues as specified in the 2006 agreement. League revenues are estimated at about \$8.5 billion, although none of the teams except the publicly owned Green Bay Packers discloses figures.

The owners also want a change in the system to distribute the money more to veterans than to unproven rookies. Their argument is based on a disparity in salaries that leaves them spending far more on newcomers than on dependable veterans.

For example, offensive tackle Jake Long, taken first in the NFL draft last month, got \$30 million guaranteed before playing an NFL game. David Diehl, a fifth-round pick in 2003 who has started every game of his career and

played left tackle for the New York Giants in their Super Bowl victory, signed a six-year \$31 million extension with less than half of that guaranteed.

But Upshaw, who opposes cutting rookie salaries, contended those huge figures go only to the top ten draft picks. And he said the big money that goes to the high picks are used as standards when veterans renegotiate contracts.

Upshaw made his argument in a half-hour conference call that ended a few minutes before Goodell made his in a news conference.

The debate will continue in negotiations and through the media over a course of months and years. Both conceded there might be no agreement until the deadline, which Upshaw suggested might not happen until the winter of 2010. So did Goodell.

"We'd like to get things done," Goodell said. "But often it's not until you have a deadline that people realize the consequences of not reaching a deal."

Upshaw added: "March of 2010—that's what we see as the realistic deadline. I'm not going to sell the players on a cap again. Once we go through the cap, why should we agree to it again?"

Ties between Dolphins and Jason Taylor all but severed

MIAMI (AP)—The feud between Jason Taylor and Bill Parcells intensified Wednesday, making it likely the six-time Pro Bowl defensive end has played his last game for the Miami Dolphins.

Coach Tony Sparano said Taylor isn't expected to take part in any team activities through training camp. The revelation came less than 24 hours after Taylor finished second to Kristi Yamaguchi in the finals of "Dancing With the Stars" in Los Angeles.

For weeks the new Dolphins regime, led by Parcells, has fumed while Taylor spent his offseason focused on his budding Hollywood career rather than back in South Florida working out with teammates.

Following a voluntary team practice Wednesday - with only Taylor missing - Sparano signaled the Dolphins are ready to move on without their top defender.

"I'm glad we know this. We've gotten the information, and that's important," Sparano said. "I know that Jason is not going to be in any minicamps, and I know that right now Jason is not going to be at training camp."

"So that's what we know. Jason's a player under contract with the Miami Dolphins. He knows that. Both parties are well aware of the information. That's all I'm going to say about it. ... We need to discuss the current players on our team right now that have been busting their butt for nine weeks here."

While Sparano implied that Taylor initiated the latest development in the soap opera, the coach declined to be more specific. Taylor and his camp were mum about the situation.

In a recent interview, Taylor said he was unhappy he had talked "probably less than a minute each" with Parcells and new general manager Jeff Ireland, which he perceived as silent treatment. But the 33-year-old Taylor said he still planned to play this season.

"I want to win, period, and I would love to win in Miami," he said Satur-

day from Los Angeles. "There are a lot of things out here going on, and a lot of opportunities coming up, but the plan is to play. Football is still my priority. I still have a passion to play football."

Taylor was in New York on Wednesday for post-"Dancing" network TV appearances. He planned to fly back to Los Angeles for meetings Friday with executives of Universal and Warner Bros., while the Dolphins hold a voluntary three-day minicamp this weekend.

A mandatory minicamp is scheduled June 6-8. Taylor is expected to return to South Florida by June 2, when he hosts a charity golf tournament.

Taylor was the lone Pro Bowl player for the Dolphins last season, when they went 1-15. Defensive tackle Vonnie Holliday, who is close to Taylor, said his friend's absence isn't a distraction for the other players.

"All they want to know is if and when he's coming back," Holliday said. "That's the only issues we have with JT right now."

Taylor has been plotting a Hollywood career since joining the Dolphins as a rookie in 1997, and he envisions himself in the kind of action roles that made Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson a movie star.

Taylor was the subject of trade speculation throughout NFL draft weekend, but at the time, Ireland denied the Dolphins were eager to part with him. Jacksonville Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio said his team pursued a deal, but the Dolphins took Taylor off the trading block.

Owner Wayne Huizenga has said the team's open to trading Taylor. Last month Miami drafted two defensive ends as potential replacements - Clemson's Phillip Merling in the second round, and Hampton's Kendall Langford in the third round.

Taylor had 11 sacks last season to increase his career total to 117, third among active players, and he was chosen NFL Man of the Year.



New Orleans Saints football player Charles Grant stretches after a drill Wednesday, May 21, 2008, during offseason training activities at the Saints practice facility in Metairie, La. Grant participated in the training session a day after being indicted by a grand jury in Georgia on an involuntary manslaughter charge.

Charles Grant still training with Saints

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Charles Grant participated in an offseason training session at the New Orleans Saints' suburban headquarters Wednesday, a day after being indicted by a grand jury in Georgia on an involuntary manslaughter charge.

"Obviously it's something we take very seriously and certainly our condolences go out to the family" of the victim, Saints coach Sean Payton said. "What's most important is the justice system taking it's process. It's something the league will handle and certainly the state of Georgia will handle."

The charges stem from a February altercation at a nightclub.

Grant, who was stabbed in the neck during the fracas, was charged by an Early County grand jury that also charged Laquien Macklin with felony murder and feticide in the shooting death of Korynda Reed, 23. Reed died after being taken to

the Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan, after the fight early Feb. 3.

Grant, a starting defensive end who was taken by the Saints in the first round of the 2002 draft, was not available for comment. The Saints planned to open their locker room for player comments later Wednesday afternoon but it was not clear if Grant would be there.

Grant's lawyer, Edward Tolley of Athens, Ga., said Grant never should have been charged in the victim's death.

"Charles is not alleged to have fired the weapon that killed (Reed) so the circumstances of the indictment are unique," Tolley said. "We, of course, dispute that he should have been charged because he did not shoot a gun. He did not cause the death of the person that died and we believe that we can prove that."

"It was only alleged he was in a fight and it's a pretty good leap in logic to

charge Charles (in the shooting death), but they did, so we have to deal with it," Tolley continued.

Tolley said Grant plans to turn himself in and post bond on Thursday, then return to New Orleans soon after so he can participate in Saints minicamp at the end of this month.

Payton said he also expected Grant to be at minicamp unless legal matters cause a scheduling conflict.

Woodrow Gray was indicted on a charge of aggravated assault in the knife attack on Grant, a former University of Georgia star from nearby Colquitt.

In addition to Grant and Macklin, Marshae Stromer, Anthony Wilson, Jarvis Tinson, Rodreaco Gray and Woodrow Gray were charged with involuntary manslaughter for alleged participation in the fight.

Grant also received misdemeanor fighting charges.

Bryant leads Lakers to comeback victory

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers waited until the third quarter to get going. Once they did, the San Antonio Spurs couldn't stop them.

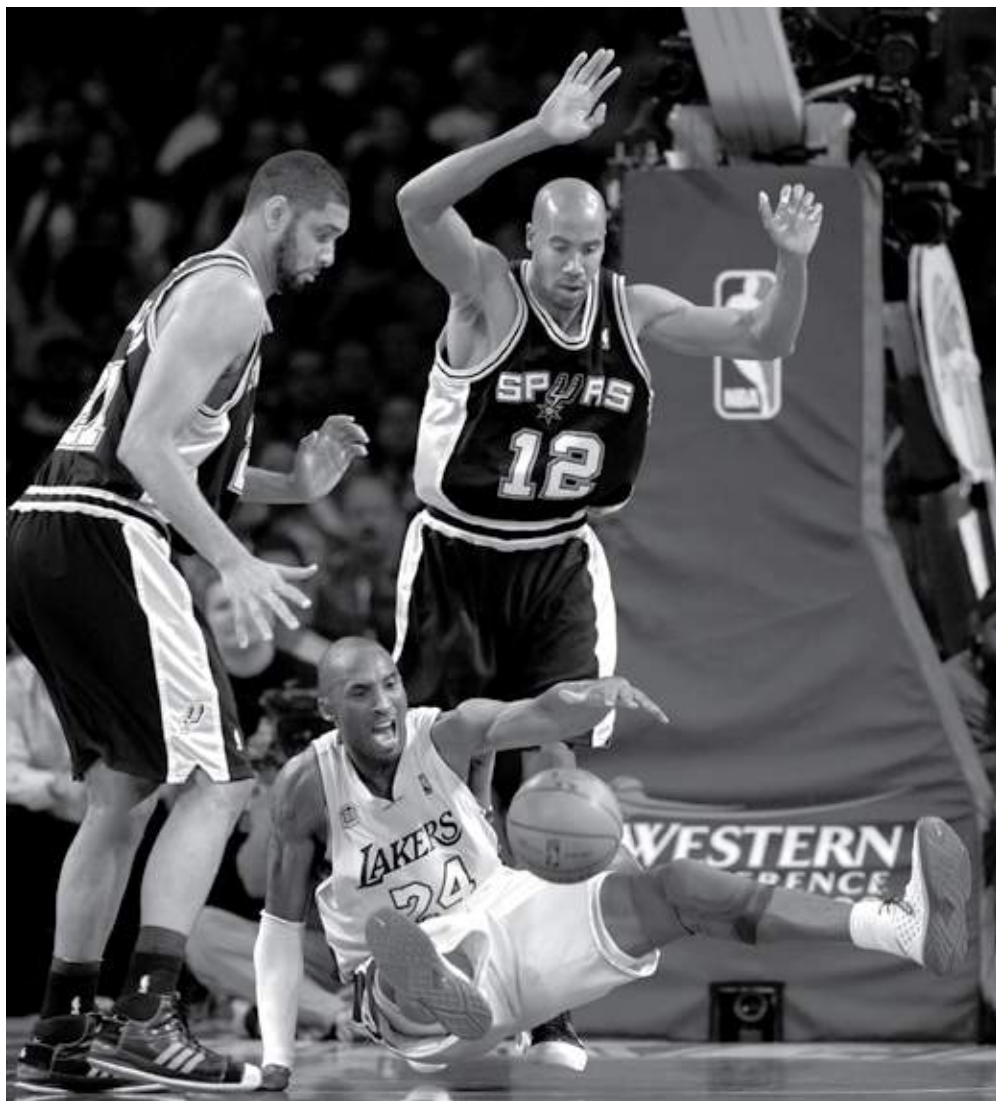
Bryant scored all but two of his 27 points after halftime, including a go-ahead, 10-foot jumper in the lane with 23.9 seconds remaining, and the Lakers rallied from a 20-point deficit to beat the Spurs 89-85 on Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

Game 2 will be played Friday night before the best-of-seven series shifts to San Antonio for the third and fourth games. The Lakers are 7-0 in the postseason at Staples Center, where they've won 13 straight games overall.

Bryant's jumper put the Lakers ahead for good after two free throws by Manu Ginobili with 1:22 remaining and a follow shot by Tim Duncan with 41 seconds left tied the game at 85. Ginobili then missed a 3-pointer, and Sasha Vujacic made two free throws with 7.3 seconds remaining to complete the scoring.

The Lakers outscored the Spurs 24-13 in the fourth quarter, when San Antonio shot 3-for-21, including 1-for-9 from 3-point range.

Bryant also had five rebounds and nine assists. Pau Gasol had 19 points and seven rebounds, and Vujacic and Vladimir Radmanovic scored 10 points apiece for the Lakers.



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, centre, tries to get control of the ball as he is guarded by San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan, left, and Bruce Bowen in the second half of Game 1 of the NBA Western Conference basketball finals, Wednesday, May 21, 2008 in Los Angeles.

Duncan led the Spurs with 30 points, 18 rebounds and four blocked shots. Tony Parker added 18 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. Bruce Bowen had 12 points and Ginobili scored 10 for the Spurs. Ginobili shot just 3-for-13.

Two straight baskets by Bryant cut

San Antonio's lead to three points with eight minutes remaining. Bowen made a 3-pointer with 7:38 left, but the Spurs went stone cold at that stage, going scoreless for nearly 6 1/2 minutes.

The Lakers took advantage, scoring 10 straight points to take their first lead

of the game. Bryant put them ahead for the first time by making two foul shots with 2:42 left, and added a jumper 24 seconds later following a turnover to make it 85-81.

The Spurs outscored the Lakers 14-2 to start the third quarter for a 65-45 lead, drawing groans from the crowd of 18,997 at Staples Center, where the Lakers haven't lost since March 28.

Suddenly, the Lakers came together, scoring 14 straight points in a span of 3:05 to draw within six. Bryant had seven points and two assists during the run.

Ginobili's 3-pointer ended a four-minute scoreless drought, and the Spurs led 72-65 entering the fourth quarter.

Duncan dominated the inside in the first half, getting 16 points and nine rebounds as the Spurs took a 51-43 lead.

Shadowed by Bowen wherever he went, Bryant scored only two points in the half, making one of three shots and going without a free throw. He averaged 33.3 points and 13.4 attempts from the foul line in the Lakers' previous 10 playoff games. Lakers coach Phil Jackson joked after the third quarter that Bryant had been on vacation.

Backcourt mate Derek Fisher, averaging 11.9 points in the playoffs, went scoreless until the fourth quarter, when he scored four.

Radmanovic, averaging 8.2 points in the postseason, made five shots without a miss for 10 points in the first quarter, but didn't attempt a shot after that.

Colon has solid majors return for Red Sox



BOSTON(AP)—Bartolo Colon made a solid return to the majors after

recovering from an elbow injury, posting his first win since last June as Boston beat Kansas City 6-3 on Wednesday.

The 2005 Cy Young pitching award winner allowed two runs and struck out four in five innings in his first game since Sept. 29, when he pitched one scoreless relief inning for the Los Angeles Angels. He became a free agent after the season then signed a minor league contract with Boston on Feb. 25.

Jacoby Ellsbury had three hits, including a leadoff homer in the first, and scored three runs for Boston, which won its sixth straight, while Dustin Pedroia had three hits and Jason Varitek added a solo homer.

Joey Gathright scored all three runs for Kansas City and reached base on all four at-bats with two singles and two walks.

Angels 4, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero hit two home runs and Jon Garland remained unbeaten in Toronto.

It was the 34th career multihomer game for Guerrero, who came in batting .260 with four homers, his lowest career totals after 45 games.

Yankees 8, Orioles 0

At New York, Alex Rodriguez hit two

balls over the fence but was credited with only one home run as New York broke loose to beat Baltimore.

Rodriguez's return from the disabled list has provided an immediate boost.

Tigers 9, Mariners 4

At Detroit, Marcus Thames hit a grand slam to highlight Detroit's seven-run third inning.

The Tigers opened their big inning with five straight singles off Jarrod Washburn (2-6) before Thames drove his fifth career slam into the bullpen in left.

Athletics 9, Rays 1

At Oakland, California, Dana Eveland pitched a three-hitter for his first career complete game and Jack Cust homered twice as Oakland avoided being swept at home by Tampa Bay for the first time.

Eveland (4-3) ended a four-start winless stretch as the A's stopped a five-game losing streak in the series. It was Oakland's third victory in 12 games.

Rangers 10, Twins 1

At Minneapolis, Sidney Ponson stayed unbeaten for Texas, topping his previous team with career complete game No. 29.

One day less than a year after the Twins released the struggling right-hander with a 2-5 record and a 6.93 ERA, Ponson (3-0) allowed one run and six hits to go nine innings for the first time since April 24, 2005, with Baltimore at Toronto.

White Sox 7, Indians 2

At Chicago, Jermaine Dye hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the sixth inning and added solo shot in the seventh as Chicago downed Cleveland for its seventh straight win.

Michael Aubrey hit a solo home run in the second for the Indians, who have lost a season-high five straight.

Giants 3, Rockies 2

At Denver, Omar Vizquel doubled to start a game-tying rally in the ninth inning, then drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th, leading San Francisco to a 3-2 victory over Colorado.

Brian Wilson struck out Omar Quintanilla looking for the final out in the 10th to pick up his 14th save in 16 chances.

Dodgers 5, Reds 2

At Los Angeles, Hiroki Kuroda pitched eight solid innings and Los Angeles scored four of their runs on a wild pitch, a suicide squeeze, a passed ball and a bad pickoff throw.

James Loney completed the scoring with a home run, helping the Dodgers beat Cincinnati for their sixth win in eight games following a five-game losing streak.

Braves 11, Mets 4

At Atlanta, Jeff Francoeur homered and drove in four runs to help Atlanta beat New York and win its third

straight in the series.

Francoeur did not play in the second game of Tuesday's doubleheader, ending his streak of 370 consecutive games played.

Phillies 12, Nationals 2

At Washington, Ryan Howard homered twice, Pedro Feliz and Shane Victorino also went deep and Philadelphia piled up 15 hits and a season-high in runs.

Brewers 4, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Ben Sheets limited Pittsburgh to one run despite allowing 11 hits in his second complete game of the season, and Rickie Weeks homered and scored twice for Milwaukee.

Marlins 3, Diamondbacks 1

At Miami, Ricky Nolasco allowed only three hits over seven innings to beat Brandon Webb and the Diamondbacks, after Florida scored its first run on a squeeze.

Astros 5, Cubs 3

At Houston, Shawn Chacon pitched seven solid innings for his first win this season, breaking his major league record streak of nine straight no-decisions to start a season as Houston beat Chicago.

Cardinals 11, Padres 3

At San Diego, Ryan Ludwick and Troy Glaus both drove in three runs to lead St. Louis past San Diego.

Coach Scott will not leave Hornets nest

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—NBA coach of the year Byron Scott, who has the right to buy out the remainder of his contract and go to the highest bidder next season, showed little interest in leaving the Hornets on Wednesday.

"I expect to be here," Scott said. "In my mind right now I hope to be here unless something crazy happens."

The Hornets pay Scott about \$3.5 million a year and the team's majority owner, George Shinn, said he intends to make a fair extension offer that would make Scott one of the highest paid coaches in the league.

"Byron has done an outstanding job for us," Shinn said. "I'm tired of flip-flopping and firing coaches. I want somebody to stay that I like. ... I'm not going to be stupid. I'll be as fair as I can to get him to stay with us."

When Scott took over as coach following the 2003-04 season, he was the Hornets' third coach in three seasons.

In his first season, he oversaw the dismantling of an aging roster, which resulted in an 18-64 record. The Hornets drafted point-guard Chris Paul the following summer and improved their win total by 20 the following season, despite being displaced to Oklahoma City by Hurricane Katrina.

Still playing in Oklahoma City in 2006-07, the Hornets narrowly missed the playoffs before returning to New Orleans full-time for this season and winning the rugged Southwest Division with a franchise-record 56 victories.

The Hornets beat Dallas in the opening round of the playoffs before losing Monday night to San Antonio in the seventh game of their Western Conference semifinal series.

Shinn said the team's top priority is a long-term extension for Paul, who would be a restricted free agent after next season. General manager Jeff Bower said the Hornets were well-positioned to keep Paul because they've been preparing for it for several seasons.

Shinn said keeping Scott is the next priority.

"It's a great scenario for him. He's worked hard to develop the players he has," Shinn said of Scott. "If we can pay the same as somebody else, why would he leave?"

Scott said he wouldn't - if Shinn follows through on what he said Wednesday.

"The biggest thing is, Mr. Shinn talked about being reasonable and things like that," Scott said. "I'm not trying to break the bank or anything. I just put a number down that I feel is in that top five or six of what other coaches in this league make."

The highest paid coach in the league is the Los Angeles Lakers' Phil Jackson, who's paid about \$10.3 million, followed by Golden State's Don Nelson and the New York Knicks' Mike D'Antoni, who are both paid around \$6 million.

The Chicago Bulls and Phoenix Suns both are looking for coaches.

Mets' Randolph apologizes for creating distraction



ATLANTA
(AP)—New York
Mets manager
Willie Randolph

issued an apology Wednesday to team ownership, the club's TV network and his players "for the unnecessary distraction" he created by suggesting he was portrayed in a different manner than white managers.

Randolph, the Mets' first black manager, created a stir with comments he made that appeared Monday in *The Record of Hackensack, N.J.*

Randolph brought up race when he questioned the way he has been presented by SNY, the team's TV network.

"Is it racial?" Randolph was quoted in the story. "Huh? It smells a little bit. ... I don't know how to put my finger on it, but I think there's something there."

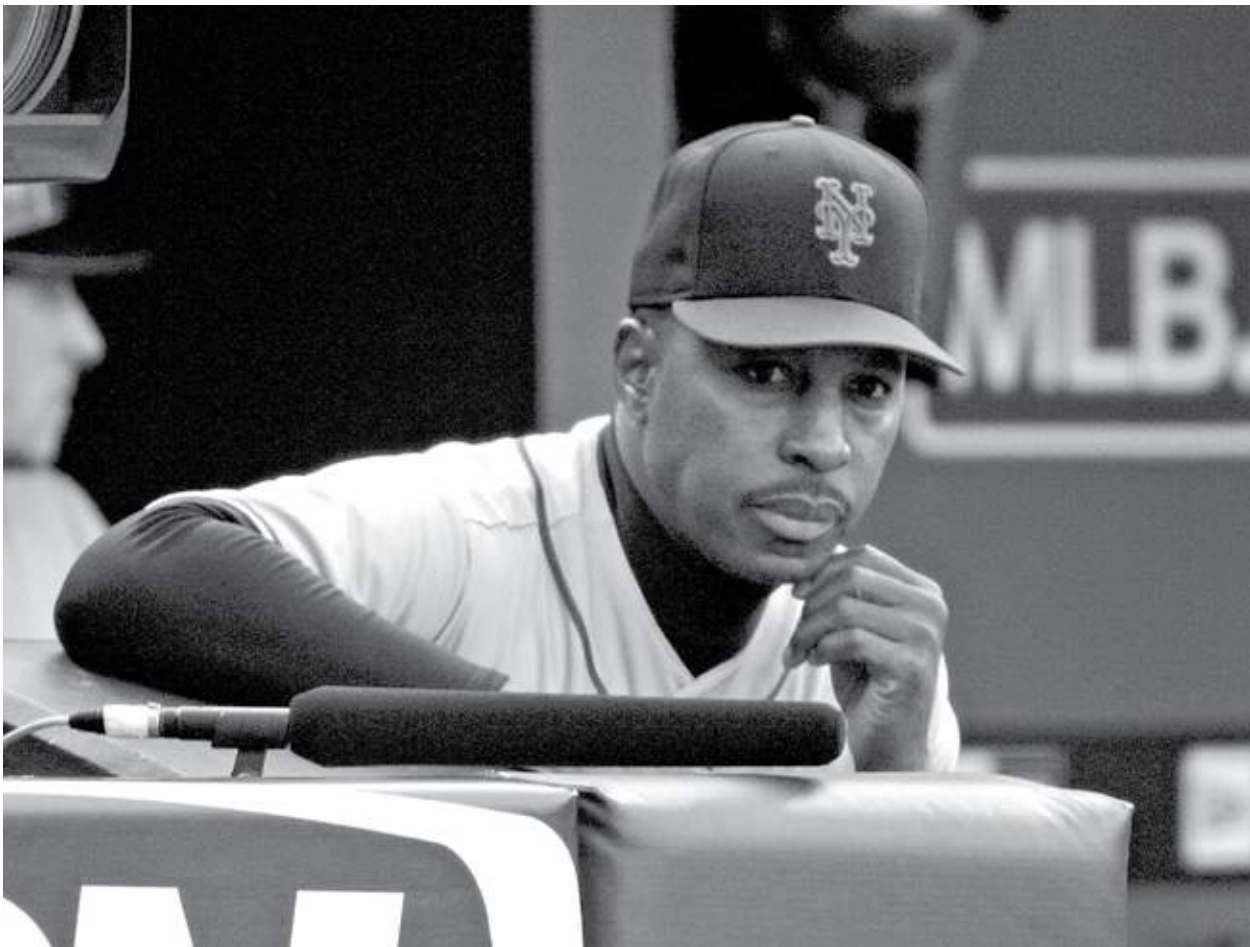
Before the Mets played the Braves on Wednesday, Randolph began by saying, "I just wrote down some notes I want to share with you guys."

"First of all, I want to apologize to the Mets ownership, SNY and my team for the unnecessary distraction that I created, that I caused the last couple days," he said. "I shouldn't have said what I said. It was a mistake. As simple as that. It was a mistake."

"And there is no excuse for that. No excuses. I own up to it. The fact of life is that we haven't been playing very well as a team. We've been very inconsistent. We've talked about that before. When it happens, you're going to get criticized for that. I understand that."

Randolph said he wasn't asked by Mets management to issue the apology.

"It's been a tough couple months for



New York Mets manager Willie Randolph looks on from the dugout during the first inning of the Mets' baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Atlanta on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. AP

my team, for myself," he said. "I understand that goes along with that. I've known that for a long time."

Dodgers manager Joe Torre, who spent 12 years with the Yankees, said the pressure of performing in New York could be partly to blame for the comments.

"It's a very tough market. That's all

I can say," Torre said. "He's under a great amount of pressure - as (Joe) Girardi is and as I was. Sometimes you may not be as well-rested as other days and you get a little cranky."

Asked whether there might be any truth to what Randolph said, Torre replied: "I'm not even going to go there. Willie

certainly has a set of circumstances that he's had to deal with that a lot of other managers didn't have to deal with."

Reds manager Dusty Baker said Randolph may have simply been speaking his mind.

"Is that possibly far-fetched, what he said there? Is there a possibility?"

Baker said. "But I've got to hear what Willie said, though. I mean, I've said some stuff, too. Sometimes it could be some stuff you've been feeling for a long time, you know what I mean? I didn't apologize, either, but everybody had to answer for what I said. That's the part that's not fair."

Mets infielder Damion Easley said Randolph's comments had not caused a stir in the clubhouse.

"I didn't feel like it was a distraction," Easley said. "I only know bits and pieces. It doesn't change the fact that we've got to play better baseball and the sooner the better. So as far as creating a distraction, I didn't feel like that was a distraction."

Pressure on Randolph, which began with a late-season collapse to miss the playoffs last year, has increased. The Mets (22-21) entered Wednesday night's game only one game over .500 with losses in four of their last six games.

"I take full responsibility for what I said out of frustration and hope that we can put a close to this matter and focus on winning a lot of baseball games," he said. "That's what we're here to do, win a championship."

When asked if his opinion of the way he has been portrayed by SNY has changed, Randolph said "Yes. Yes. Again, those guys have a job to do. They get paid a lot of money to do their job. What I feel about that is really not important. At the time I voiced that opinion, again, that was out of frustration."

"What I said was what it felt like to me. I feel bad about how this has come about."

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234-RENT SAIPAN

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DELIVERY

Trench Tech offers summer classes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym will be offering a mixed martial arts summer program for kids' age 10 to 17 starting next month at their new facility at the Afetnas Square in San Antonio. Trench Tech co-instructor Cuki Alvarez said they will offer the three-month long summer classes from Mondays through Saturdays from 3pm to 5pm. Wrestling, grappling/jujitsu (ground fighting submission techniques), grappling and jujitsu, boxing, kick boxing (Muay

Thai), self-defense are the disciplines that will be offered six days a week. The gym will be closed every Sunday but private lessons are available on the said day at \$25 per hour. Aside from Alvarez, the other instructors are Randy Taylor, Tetsuji Kato, Jason Tarkong, and Joe Ocampo. Children are required to bring a book or magazine of their choice, a pencil, notebook, own mouthpiece, towels, and water bottles. Board shorts that are not too

baggy and no zippers on pockets, a t-shirt or rash guard, and zories are the required attire. The training schedule that will be followed are 3pm to 3:30pm reading and study time; 3:30pm to 4pm stretching and warm ups; and 4pm to 5pm MMA class and training. Alvarez said that, although the kids would be exercising and training in MMA, it is also important that they would also gain more than physical health. "It is Trench Tech's goal for every child to gain awareness

in discipline, respect, self confidence, and better self esteem from this whole experience." Alvarez said Trench Tech strives to honor and respect the Fokai and Purebred mission statement of, "Exhaust the body. Proceed the mind, and cultivate the spirit." "It is through these adage that we train our minds, body and soul in gaining mastery of the disciplines and practice self respect. When one respects himself, they can ultimately respect others." For more information, call Alvarez at 483-4MMA or 484-4662 or Taylor at 483-8670.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dandan Elementary School Golf Tournament fundraiser chairman Rufin Inos, third left, and Rep. Diego Benavente, fourth left, joins DES principal Jonas Barcinas, right, and other event committee members for a group photo.

DES golf fundraiser a success

The Dandan Elementary School and its Parents Teachers Association celebrated its successful 1st Annual Golf Tournament Fundraising held last month at the Coral Ocean Point. This year, PTA President and Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero went out of his way to reach out to some expert in running a Golf Tournament so he invited Rufin Inos and Rep. Diego Benavente since they are very familiar and experienced. Because of the economic shortfall and lack of funding, the school and its parent created a committee spearheaded by Inos and Precinct I Rep. Diego Benavente. The team met every week to discuss a plan of action on how to lure all the golfers and other interested individuals to participate. The fundraising event raised 10,000 where the money will be used for the facilities improvement, the purchase of instructional supplies, and other school needs for all students. Organizers of the event would like to thank all teachers, staff, school administrators of DES, volunteer parents, Reps.

Ralph Torres, David Apatang, and Joseph Reyes, former Rep. & PTA vice president Benjamin Seman, Donald Flores, PTA officers Tess Camacho and Cathy Borja, James Kintol, Jerry Kintol, and Tony Taisacan. Also on behalf of the school administrators, teachers, faculty & staff, and students, PTA members, and parents Un Dang-kolo Na Si Yu'us Ma'asse' to the following individuals and companies for their untiring and continued support: LSG Catering Co. & Management, MV Reyes, Auntie Mags Catering, D's Diners, PIC, Aquarius Beach Tower, Coral Ocean Point, National Office Supply, DFS, Bank of Guam, White Coconut, PTI, Coca-Cola, McDonalds, MARPAC, Marianas Pacific Distributors, City Trust Bank, First Hawaiian Bank, The Water Company, Saipan Ice, Pacific Trading, Ace Hardware, Pizza Hut, Palm's Resort, Marianas Resort, Tori Hide Restaurant, Joe's Bar & Grill, Club Exclusive, Tinian Dynasty, Triple J Motors, Triple J Wholesale, Del Kintol, and Derron Flores.

MANCHESTER

From Page

post as Manchester keeper Edwin van der Sar dived the other way. Terry sat on the ground in disbelief. "I was thinking he's going to score," United defender Rio Ferdinand said of Terry, his defensive teammate on the England squad. "He's a great penalty taker normally, but he slipped." Anderson and Ryan Giggs - making his club-record 759th appearance - then converted for United around Salomon Kalou's score for Chelsea. That left it up to Anelka, whose failure at just past 1:30 a.m. set off another celebration for the Red Devils, who 10 days earlier won their second straight

English Premier League title by beating out Chelsea on the final day of the season. While his teammates ran to congratulate Van der Sar in front of the United fans behind the goal, Ronaldo lay face down in the center circle. Eventually he got up to join in the celebrations. Terry was in tears at the end and was hugged and consoled by coach Avram Grant, who appeared to throw his runners-up medal toward Chelsea fans. Carlos Tevez, Michael Carrick, Owen Hargreaves and Nani scored the other kicks for the Red Devils. Michael Ballack, Juliano Belletti, Lampard, Ashley Cole converted for Chelsea. Manchester United won its first European title since it was purchased three years ago by Malcolm Glazer, whose Tampa Bay Bucca-

neers won the 2003 Super Bowl. Chelsea, which has become a European power under high-spending Russian owner Roman Abramovich, finished with 10 men after Didier Drogba was ejected in the 116th minute for petulantly tapping Nemanja Vidic in the face with his hand. Only the pre-game opening ceremony made it look like Moscow. After that it could have been Old Trafford, Stamford Bridge or Wembley as players so familiar with each other were roared on by English fans. The first 25 minutes, however, were a poor advertisement for the Premier League as Chelsea stifled United's efforts to create moves and the action got stuck in the midfield. Ronaldo, poorly marked by Michael Essien, Ronaldo head-

ed in a cross from Wes Brown, who had neatly swapped passes with Paul Scholes on the right wing. Ronaldo scored a Champions League-leading eight goals in 11 matches, and his season total was third in United history behind Denis Law (46 in 1963-64) and Ruud van Nistelrooy (44 in 2002-3). Chelsea equalized when Essien's shot hit defenders Vidic and Ferdinand, and the ball dropped to the unmarked Lampard, who scored from 12 yards. Lampard hit the crossbar in the fourth minute of injury time with a left-footed shot from 15 yards. Giggs, who broke Bobby Charlton's record for United appearances, nearly broke the tie in the 100th but Terry deflected the shot with his head.

WABOL

From Page

day I will be playing twice. The tournament will not only test you physically but also mentally," said Wabol, who is the 2006 Laolao Bay Golf Resort club champion. He said that 1995 Tahiti Pacific Games gold medalist Makesh Raman of Fiji had the chance to play in the Philippine Amateur Open 13 years ago. "Imagine it

took me 13 years just to get the chance to play in this event." Wabol will be flying to Manila on May 26, Monday, where he would stay there overnight before taking an early morning connecting flight to Bacolod the following day in order to make it in the two-day practice round at the Negro Occidental Country Club. "I just wanted to learn and see the layout of each of the hole in the golf course and to know the conditions before the actual game itself."

Wabol said he would be satisfied with his performance if ever he gets past the first or second round. "But if ever I make it to the quarterfinals or semifinals then I am really lucky. Competition there will be really tough." Wabol is also a part of the CNMI squad that won a team title when they competed in 1992 in Baguio City, north of Manila where they beat defending champion Club Villamor in the four-day tournament. Team CNMI placed third behind

Villamor on Day 1 then slipped to seventh place the following day. They moved back to third on the third day before making a final push to stun the defending champions in the penultimate round. Other members of the squad were the late Ed Cabrera, Louie Kapileo, Kwang Young Kim, Jay Sorensen, and Jess Taitano, who left for the CNMI after one day of competitions. The tournament was held in Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club.

OL'ACES


From Page

finally put the game away. Marvin Rabauliman, held scoreless in the opening period, netted 18 in the final three quarters while Abong Camacho scattered 15 points with Elias Rangamar and Ed Diaz ending up with 12 and 10 apiece. Manuel Ajoste tried to rally the Pawnbrokers back into the game but failed to get the needed scoring support from his teammates. He Scored 16 of his 30 points in the second half. Budz Camacho and Mark Wallace tallied 15 each while Mike Umali finished with 11 more. SMF Seabridge defeated Price Costco, 96-91, in a continuation of their power outage-interrupted April 16 match. Sonny Lerio tallied 30 points to pace SMF's scoring while

Leo Itaas added 22 more. White Capalad and Ruther Demigillo chipped in 14 markers each. Dave Sablan's 20 points led the Storemasters' losing cause while Keoni Chariton and Dennis Vinas contributed 13 apiece. **MASTERS**
Taga Warriors 85, Tan Holdings/CTSI 68 Earlier, the Taga Warriors' big men teamed up to help pull off an 85-68 win against Tan Holdings/CTSI ending the Pacers' three-game winning run. Ed Cosino, Ronald Delos Reyes, and Danny Bicera wreck havoc inside the paint getting most of their points by barreling past the Pacers' interior defense. Cosino led the Warriors balanced offensive attack with 16 points while Delos Reyes followed with 14. Elmer Pineda drained 13 markers while Bicera scored 12.

Edel Cariño paced the Pacers with 14 points while Ariel Jinang, Adonis Macoto, and Ferdie Tobias all ended up with 12 each. **First Game (masters division)**
Taga Warriors 85 - Cosino 16, Delos Reyes 14, Pineda 13, Bicera 12, Nicdao 9, Abedes 8, R. Dizon 8, Cruz 2, E. Dizon 2, Jacob 1.
Tan Holdings/CTSI 68 - Cariño 14, Jinang 12, Macoto 12, Tobias 12, Solidum 8, Garcia 4, Galag 3, Alejandro 2, Salazar 1.
Scoring by quarters: 23-14, 47-28, 75-50, 85-68.
Referees: Boy Garcia and Elias Rangamar. **Second Game (open division)**
Ol'Aces 128 - F. Peliseman 34, Cruz 33, Rabauliman 18, Camacho 15, Rangamar 12,

Diaz 10, Lizama 4, R. Pelise-man 2.
GEC Pawnshop 91 - Ajoste 30, Camacho 15, Wallace 15, Umali 11, Cacho 6, Wesley 6, Casabuena 4, Lee 4.
Scoring by quarters: 26-28, 50-50, 84-78, 128-91.
Referees: Jess Pabula and Dado Vistal. **Third Game (open division, continued game)**
SMF Seabridge 96 - Lerio 30, Itaas 22, Capalad 14, Demigillo 14, Hugos 5, Delfin 4, Mortos 4, Siriban 3.
Price Costco 91 - D. Sablan 20, Chariton 13, Vinas 13, Berline 9, Johnson 8, Duenas 7, Lauron 6, Devero 5, Irinaka 4, Hernandez 2.
Scoring by quarters: 23+21, 48-38, 71-63, 95-96.
Referees: Manny Sitchon and Dado Vistal.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston 30	19	.612		
Tampa Bay 27	20	.574	2	
Baltimore	24	21	.533	4
Toronto	23	25	.479	6 1/2
New York	21	25	.457	7 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	25	20	.556	
Minnesota	23	23	.500	2 1/2
Cleveland	22	24	.478	3 1/2
Kansas City	21	25	.457	4 1/2
Detroit	19	27	.413	6 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	28	20	.583	
Oakland	25	23	.521	3
Texas	23	25	.479	5
Seattle	18	29	.383	9 1/2

Los Angeles

25

21

.543

3

San Francisco

19

29

.396

10

Colorado

18

29

.383

10 1/2

San Diego

17

31

.354

12

Yesterday's Games

Oakland 9, Tampa Bay 1

Detroit 9, Seattle 4

Boston 6, Kansas City 3

N.Y. Yankees 8, Baltimore 0

L.A. Angels 4, Toronto 3

Texas 10, Minnesota 1

Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 2

San Francisco 3, Colorado 2, 10 innings

Milwaukee 4, Pittsburgh 1

Atlanta 11, N.Y. Mets 4

Florida 3, Arizona 1

Philadelphia 12, Washington 2

Houston 5, Chicago Cubs 3

St. Louis 11, San Diego 3

L.A. Dodgers 5, Cincinnati 2

LOCAL SCORES

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	26	19	.578	
Atlanta	25	21	.543	1 1/2
Philadelphia	26	22	.542	1 1/2
New York	22	22	.500	3 1/2
Washington	20	28	.417	7 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	28	19	.596	
St. Louis	28	21	.571	1
Houston	27	21	.563	1 1/2
Milwaukee	22	24	.478	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	21	25	.457	6 1/2
Cincinnati	21	26	.447	7

West Division

Arizona	28	18	.609	
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FMI Standings

Open division

Ol'Aces	7	1
Advance X-Terminators	6	1
GEC Pawnshop	5	3
Shirley's Coffee Shop	5	2
TASI Tours	4	3
SMF-Seabridge	3	4
Price Costco	3	5
Starwater	0	7
MIGS	0	7

Masters division

Taga Warriors	6	2
GEC Pawnshop	4	2
Tan Holdings CTSI	3	4
Bank of Saipan	3	3
Fixers	1	6

PIC's Paradise In Cleats scores big over Wild Bill's Wild Fire



The Paradise In Cleats, sporting their new team colors, capitalized on two penalty kicks to beat the Wild Bill's Wild Fire team with a score of 2-1.

Jaime Beavis of the Wild Bill's Wild Fire opened the match with a blazing dribble down the side of the field to score. Later in the game, the Wild Fire team was called for a handball in the box to give a penalty kick opportunity to the Paradise In Cleats team. PIC's Brenda Schultz answered the call by scoring on a direct kick. In the second half, another penalty provided the PIC Paradise In Cleats team with another opportunity to score. PIC's Meaghan Hassel-Shearer passed the ball to Brenda Schultz who swooped in for a quick score. Despite some heavy offensive play by the Wild Bill's Wild Fire team, PIC's Paradise In Cleats emerged the winner of this match.

It was a draw for the second match of the day between Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues and Matt Smith's Smithereens. The temperature was hot and the competition even hotter as both teams turned up the heat in the second half of the game. There were numerous scoring opportunities, however, Marianas Eye goalkeeper Becky Covarrubias and Matt Smith's goalkeeper Maria Ornes ensured that the game remained scoreless. A handball in the box gave the Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues a golden opportunity to score however, Becca Newman of the Spectacular Blues was denied by a great save from Maria Ornes of the Smithereens.

The Tuesday evening match between Matt Smith's Smithereens and PIC's Paradise In Cleats resulted in a draw 0-0 with neither team able to break through the other's solid defense. Both teams had many looks at the goal and a few opportunities to score, but were unable to finish.

The games will continue this Saturday at the CPA field with the PIC Paradise In Cleats going up against the Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues team at 8:15 followed by Matt Smith's Smithereens battle against Wild Bill's Wild Fire at 10 am. Tuesday evenings match will feature the Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues against the Wild Bill's Wild Fire team at 5 pm. *(NMIFA)*



14-year old Michiko Tenorio of PIC Paradise In Cleats taking control of the play.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Wild Bill's Wild Fire Capt. Lindsay Davis attempting to strike while Smith's Smithereens Lovelle D'Lonsod attempts to deflect the ball.



Smith's Smithereens on the defense against Wild Bill's Wild Fire.



A Paradise In Cleats player, left, tries to keep the ball away from Lindsay Davis of Wild Bill's Wild Fire in their game last Saturday in the Women's Recreational Football League at the Airport Field.



A Wild Bill's Wild Fire player chases the ball.



Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues Zoe Jewell taking a free kick.



PIC's Brenda Schultz attempts to penetrate the Wild Bill's defense.



PIC's Paradise In Cleats scores big over Wild Bill's Wild Fire

The Paradise In Cleats team sporting their new team color of green capitalized on two penalty kicks to beat the Wild Bill's Wild Fire team with a score of 2-1.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

NFL owners vote to opt out of labor agreement

The NFL and its players' union are on the clock. As it counts down, the games will go on. To nobody's surprise, owners voted unanimously Tuesday to end their labor agreement with the union in 2011.



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44 FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Manchester wins Euro champions league



Manchester United players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Champions League final soccer match at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Wednesday May 21, 2008. United beat Chelsea 6-5 on penalties after the match ended 1-1 after extra time.

MOSCOW (AP)—Manchester United beat Chelsea 6-5 in a rain-soaked penalty shootout to win the European Champions League title Wednesday night following a 1-1 tie.

In the first final between two English teams, Edwin van der Sar batted away Nicolas Anelka's drive on the 14th kick to give Manchester United its third Champions League title. This championship, following titles in 1968 and 1999, came in the 50th anniversary

year of the plane crash that killed eight United players in Munich, Germany.

Cristiano Ronaldo had scored in the 26th minute for Manchester United, his 42nd goal of the season. Frank Lampard tied it for Chelsea in the 45th at Luzhniki Stadium, pointing both hands skyward in honor of his mother, who died last month.

Ronaldo, considered by many Eu-

rope's top player this season, was stopped by goalkeeper Petr Cech on United's third penalty kick. That gave the advantage to Chelsea, which has never won Europe's top club title.

"When we missed the penalty kick, we thought we were in trouble," said United's Alex Ferguson, who led the club to its 22nd title overall since he became manager in September 1986.

Chelsea captain John Terry stepped up with the score 4-4 and the chance to win it. But he slipped and his kick hit a

See **MANCHESTER** on Page 42



Wabol aims to qualify in RP amateur open

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER



Many time CNMI national golf team member Jess Wabol is aiming to advance in the 2008 Philippine Amateur Open when he competes in the qualifying round to be held in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental south of Manila.

The tournament begins with the stroke-play qualifying round on May 28 and 29 where 100 golfers will try to vie for the 32 slots available for the match play event.

"Stroke play is what you shoot is your score while match play will follow total gross scores. This tournament is for all golfers with a nine handicap or below," said Wabol, in an interview yesterday.

The first round of the match play begins on May 30 where the 32 qualifiers will play 18 holes in the morning with the Top 16 moving on into the afternoon matches where the Elite 8 advancing to the second round the following day.

On May 31, those who made it to the Elite 8 will play in the quarterfinals with the Final Four golfers moving on to the semifinals in the afternoon. June 1 will be the finals for both the men's and women's divisions.

"If you see the schedule, it will be really tough. If I ever make it to the qualifying round, there is a chance that in one

See **WABOL** on Page 42



JON PEREZ

Jess Wabol shoots from the sand trap in this file photo taken in last year's NMC Foundation Open at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Ol'Aces regain FMI caging lead



Pelisamen



Cruz

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Ol'Aces regained its hold of the 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League after cruising to a 128-91 win over GEC Pawnshop Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fred Pelisamen and Jericho Cruz continued to be the nightmare of opposing teams as they once again toyed with their defenders combining for half of Ol'Aces' points.

Pelisamen paced Ol'Aces with 34

points while Cruz added 33 more to secure Ol'Aces' seventh win in eight games while handing the Pawnbrokers their third loss in eight outings.

Pelisamen scored 12 of his points in the third quarter to help Ol'Aces shatter a 50-50 deadlock at the half and give the Sonny Flores-mentored squad some breathing room entering the final canto.

Cruz then finished off what Pelisamen started drilling in 15 of his points in the final period as Ol'Aces

See **OL'ACES** on Page 42